



**Kansas Studies Courses  
Summer 2018**

- PO 107A/KS 199A **KS and US, State and Local Government**
- HI 300A/KS 399A **American Indians in Kansas**

**Fall 2018**

- PO 107A/KS 199A **KS and US, State and Local Government**
- PO 371/KS 399A **2018 Kansas Elections**
- HI 300B/KS 340A **Life and Death on a Kansas Homestead**
- KS 395A **Independent Study in Kansas Studies**
- KS 395A **Internship in Kansas Studies**

**Coming, Fall 2018:**

**Life and Death on a Kansas Homestead (MW, 1-2:15 PM)**

Just southwest of Baldwin City once stood Prairie City, Kansas. At its peak in the late 1850s and 1860s, Prairie City boasted twenty-five houses, two churches, a school, four stores, a hotel, a restaurant, a depot, a grist mill, a cobbler's shop, two blacksmiths, a city park, two doctors, a tannery, a lime kiln, and a saw mill. It was also home to The Freeman's Champion newspaper, an abolitionist press. One of the families calling Prairie City home in this period was the Millers. George Miller (b. 1832) immigrated to Kansas from Canada in 1858. In 1859 he married Margaret Lowery and, together, they built a farm that eventually sprawled 250 acres.



This class (**KS 340/HI300/HN301 & 302**) will engage in archival research to explore the history and cultural context of the Miller family and Prairie City, seeking to understand both the family and their home within the larger context of Kansas and the American West in the second half of the nineteenth century. **The class counts toward a Kansas Studies minor and, when taken as KS 340, is also an upper-division general education course in the social sciences.**

Vanessa Steinroetter/Kelly Erby  
Co-Directors  
cks@washburn.edu

- Deborah Altus, Human Services
- Tom Averill, English
- Bob Beatty, Political Science
- Roy Bird, KHC Speaker
- Chris Bowers, Military Student Success
- Marcia Cebulska, Playwright
- Jeannie Chinn, KSHS
- Virgil Dean, KSHS
- Dennis Etzel, Jr., English
- Kelly Erby, History
- Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum
- William Gilliland, Geology
- Rachel Goossen, History
- Chris Hamilton, Political Science
- Jonathan Hart, History
- Danielle Head, Art
- Bob Hoard, Sociology/Anthropology
- Jim Kelly, KTWU
- Robert Hull, Finance
- David Kendall, Film Producer
- Louise Krug, English
- Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages
- Bruce Mactavish, History
- Judith McConnell-Farmer, Education
- Eric McHenry, English
- Debra Mikulka, KAN TRAIN Grant Mgmt.
- Linsey Modellmog, Political Science
- Laura Murphy, Anthropology
- Marguerite Perret, Art
- Mark Peterson, Political Science
- Leslie Reynard, Communications
- Betsy Roe, TSCPL
- Tom Schmiedeler, Geography
- Robin Shrimplin, History
- Bradley Siebert, English
- Sarah Smarsh, Author
- Vanessa Steinroetter, English
- Laura Stephenson, Dean, CAS
- Margaret Stewart, English
- Nancy Tate, VP, Academic Affairs
- Kelly Watt, Art
- David Winchester, Mabee Library
- Kerry Wynn, History
- Carol Yoho, Web Editor

Center for Kansas Studies  
www.washburn.edu/cks



### Restoring the Charles M. Sheldon study

**Dr. Kerry Wynn**, associate professor of history and director of the Washburn University Honors Program, taught a new and innovative Kansas Studies course this spring. **“History in the Community”** drew from high impact community engagement practices (HICEP) to partner with a community organization, in this case Old Prairie Town, to provide students with an interactive, experiential learning opportunity.

Old Prairie Town has recently restored the study of the Topeka Congregationalist minister Charles M. Sheldon. Sheldon wrote religious novels encouraging people to live according to the tenets of Christianity. An adherent of the Social Gospel, Sheldon read these stories first to his congregation, and then published them in serial and novel form. His 1896 novel *In His Steps*, first popularized the phrase “What would Jesus do?” In Topeka, Sheldon was an influential member of the community, known for his support of educational and social institutions,

including a kindergarten for African American students that later carried his name.

For the course, students worked with Old Prairie Town to develop materials that will help Old Prairie Town staff interpret the history of Sheldon’s life, his study, and Topeka during his lifetime.



### “Literary Memories of Water”

On February 24, 2018, CKS Fellows **Tom Averill** and **Marcia Cebulka** read from their current fiction in the concert hall of the Albrecht-Kemper Art Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri at an event called “Literary Memories of Water.” Tom read from his newly published archival novel, *Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr*, about the years between 1854 and 1889 in the life of a fictional Kansas female fossil collector. Marcia presented her short story **“Washed Away”** about a Kansas woman's fight for life during a flood in Greece in 1986. They were joined by Kansas poet **H.C. Palmer**. The program was organized to accompany the museum's exhibition “Memory of Water” featuring the work of **Marguerite Perret** and others.



### New Novel published by Thomas Fox Averill

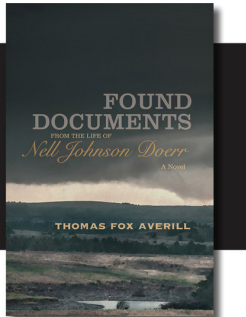
*Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr*, by **Thomas Fox Averill**, Professor Emeritus of English and Center Fellow, is a novel set in Kansas between 1854-1890. Made up entirely of documents--letters, diary entries, notes, newspaper clippings, drawings, and drafts of presentations--the novel is “archival fiction.” Nell Johnson Doerr is a character from Averill's novel *rode*, a baby rescued from a smoldering cabin by Robert and Jo Johnson in 1825. Nell, married to Solomon Doerr, loses two babies to stillbirth, and in 1854 moves from Arkansas to Kansas Territory to work on the Underground Railroad. When her husband is killed in Quantrill's Raid in 1863, Nell again finds herself in the basement of another smoldering home, and everyone she loves is dead. While hiding, though, she notices fossils in the foundation rock, and feels she must come to understand these creatures at once dead and alive--just as she feels she is. After this “salvation in stone,” as she calls it, she begins her study, reading Darwin, published only four years before, in 1859, and seeking help from scientists at the fledgling University of Kansas. After years of discovering bryozoan fossils (an invertebrate moss-like creature, like coral), logging them, drawing them, studying them, and sending them to the National Museum, Nell is able to make real contributions to Invertebrate Paleontology as an amateur scientist. A woman who was rescued grows up to rescue others.

A woman who was discovered, who was found, grows up to discover fossils and to find herself in the process. Nell represents the best of early Kansas in terms of her independence, her work for the rights of women, her belief in education, and her idealism.


Averill was supported in the writing of the book, and in giving presentations of the published book, by the Center for Kansas Studies, by Small Research Grants from Washburn University, and by the award of an academic sabbatical for research and writing. He was also supported by the community of scholars at Washburn, especially the Interdisciplinary Faculty Colloquium sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, which read early parts of *Found* during a WALK colloquium. Copies of the novel are available at the Ichabod Shop in the Memorial Union on the Washburn University campus.

**Found Documents  
from the Life of Nell  
Johnson Doerr**

A NOVEL  
by Thomas Fox Averill



**\$19.95** paper  
978-0-8263-5930-8  
152 pp.  
6 x 9  
16 figs.



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### The Flint Hills Archaeological Conference

The **40<sup>th</sup> Flint Hills Archaeological Conference** was held in Lawrence, Kansas, at the Oread Hotel, March 23-24, 2018. **Dr. Laura Murphy**, Center for Kansas Study fellow and assistant professor of Anthropology at Washburn University, co-organized this year’s conference with Dr. Mary Adair, Senior Curator of

Archaeology at the University of Kansas. The Flint Hills conference began in 1979 as a venue for archaeologists working on projects in eastern Kansas and Nebraska, western Missouri, and northeastern Oklahoma to discuss and compare ideas and findings. This year, scholars and students presented 25 papers and partic-



## Fellows News — cont.

► cont. from p. 3

ipated in the ancient and modern DNA laboratory tours on KU's campus. Two Washburn University students, Joseph Bulls and Sarah McIlrath, presented original research papers they completed as part of "Kansas Archaeology," an Anthropology 300 and Kansas Studies course. Their work focused on the analysis of stone tool artifacts recovered from the Saxman site, a proto-Wichita (Great Bend aspect) village in Rice County, Kansas. Dr. Laura Murphy also co-authored a presentation with Washburn Anthropology senior Shelby Beltz on the history of the Saxman site. Over 1,800 artifacts from the Saxman site, on loan to Washburn from the Kansas State Historical Society for the next several years, will continue to provide opportunities to address research topics related to proto-Wichita village life, including contact with Puebloan people of the American southwest and the Spanish at the time of contact.

### Photo credits:

*Above right-* Washburn Anthropology senior **Sarah McIlrath** presenting research on hide-scrapers from the Saxman site.

*Below right-* Washburn junior **Joseph Bulls** presenting research on lithic knives from the Saxman site.



## English Department Spotlight

On April 12, 2018, Washburn University's English Department held its **inaugural reading and research spotlight**, which featured readings by two Kansas-based writers and a scholarly presentation on literature of the Great Plains. The first presenter was Ande Davis, who read his short story "The Unbreakable Laws of Physics." Next, **Vanessa Steinroetter** presented a paper titled "Revisiting Prairie Madness: Unsettling Landscapes and the EcoGothic in Plains Literature." The final reader was **Izzy Wasserstein**, whose second poetry collection, *When Creation Falls*, was just released by Meadowlark Press. She read poems from this new book along with an excerpt from her short story "All the Hometowns You Can't Stay Away From," which is set in Topeka. All three presenters also teach at Washburn. The English Department plans to hold additional reading and research spotlights in the future, with the next one planned for the fall. All are free and open to the public. For further information and to be notified of upcoming readings, please contact the event coordinator Liz Derrington ([liz.derrington@washburn.edu](mailto:liz.derrington@washburn.edu)).

## Fellows News — cont.

### When Creation Falls

In *When Creation Falls*, **Izzy Wasserstein** begins with her childhood in Kansas and branches out to explore questions of science and faith, myth and politics. From nights listening to Royals baseball on the radio to paleontology, from the prehistoric past to the end of the world, from prairie settlers to the far future, from William Stafford to the Westboro Baptist Church, these poems explore how we relate to an indifferent universe, how we make meaning, and how we might create something better.

Readers can purchase the book through Meadowlark Books (<https://squareup.com/market/meadowlark-books/item/when-creation-falls-by-izzy-wasserstein>), on Amazon, or at the following independent bookstores: Clafin Books, Manhattan, KS; Ellen Plumb's City Bookstore, Emporia, KS; The Raven Book Store, Lawrence, KS.



### Dr. Karl A. Menninger Letters Research

On April 23, 2018, CKS fellows **Tom Averill** and **Kerry Wynn**, along with their student **Kimmy Woodworth**, presented some of their recent research as part of Washburn's Gender Brown Bag series. This research, partially funded by the Center for Kansas Studies, examines letters Dr. Karl A. Menninger wrote to Lilian Stone Johnson beginning in 1923 and ending with a brief note in 1941.

Lilian Stone was a 1915 graduate in English from Washburn University, who married

in the conception and development of Menninger's first book, the best-selling *The Human Mind*. Lilian is not mentioned in the Preface of that book, though Karl thanks many others for their help. The gender brown bag presentation explored the relationship between Karl Menninger, Lilian Stone Johnson, and *The Human Mind*, and asked questions about the hidden emotional and intellectual work women often do.

**This research project is based on a collection of letters** that Sylvie Rueff, Johnson's

granddaughter, has loaned to Averill to digitize. The goal is to make them available for research as part of the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection. Woodworth, a history major and honors student, has scanned the documents to create high-quality PDFs. These images make the letters accessible to scholars interested in Kansas his-



another Washburn graduate, Beryl Johnson. The couple was friends with Karl and his wife Grace. The letters trace the affection of Karl for Lilian and acknowledge the role she played

tory, Menninger, publishing, and the intimate lives of two people in the 20th-century United States.



## Carol Yoho's Digital Photography

**I**n the mid-1990s CKS Fellow **Carol Yoho** was quick to embrace the world of digital photography. Trained in graphic arts, she had focused on the communication powers of these visual attributes: line, shape, texture, pattern, color and lighting—all elements pertinent to the art of taking eye-catching photographs.

After earning a BFA at Washburn University and an MS in media technology at the University of Wisconsin-Menomonie, Carol became an early user of digital media while she worked at the Instructional Media Center of the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS. In 1994 the school loaned her an early version of a digital camera and encouraged her to experiment with it. The camera was a point-and-shoot model, with no zoom lens. The maximum image resolution was low, and the camera worked best when steadied by using a tripod.

Carol remembers, "I purchased my own camera soon after, and have bought several cameras since. Each camera is less expensive than that first one, and each model's technology gets more sophisticated. Today's cameras are technically wonderful!"

Digital photography soon became an integral part of web-publishing, another technology Carol embraced while working at KUMC. Software like Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia Dreamweaver (later purchased by Adobe) were introduced as important graphics-production tools. "I enjoyed being able to

take digital photos, tweak them electronically as needed, and immediately share my images with the world, online," Carol remembers.

After moving home to Topeka in 1996 to marry her long-time friend Max Yoho, Carol taught as adjunct professor at Washburn and was given web space on the Washburn server, where she has posted over 480 photo essays: <http://www.washburn.edu/cas/art/cyoho/archive/>

Since retiring, Carol has drifted toward showing her photographic work locally in gallery spaces. Recently, for example, she has shared display space with a photographer friend, Valarie Ireland. During January and February of 2017 their work was viewed at Topeka's Classic Bean Downtown coffee shop. Next Carol was featured photographer at an artistic event hosted by the League of Women Voters of Topeka and Shawnee County at the NOTO Arts Center in North Topeka. She showed her work in September at Topeka's Aaron Douglas Art Fair, and in November and December she re-teamed with Valerie at the Classic Bean at Fairlawn Plaza. In early 2018 Carol joined the Topeka Art Guild and currently has her work displayed in their gallery at the west end of Fairlawn Plaza Mall.



The following images are samples of Carol's current photography; accompanied by her comments:



*left: Cat and Flax*

This photo was taken on my Topeka patio. The flowers stand out as bright. When the viewer notices the cat's eyes, the photo takes a slightly darker turn.

*right: Cat in Ephesus*

After taking a trip to Greece and Turkey with a group of students from Washburn University, I crossed that wish off my Bucket List. I'm a cat-lover, and cats were everywhere in Ephesus. This one was Queen of Ephesus!



## Carol Yoho's Digital Photography -cont.



*left: Circle of Shears, in Memory of Cleve Martin*



*right: Work Boots, in Memory of Max Yoho*

One year ago in April both my father and husband died...just 12 days apart. As I was cleaning up Dad's independent-living space at a retirement center, I came across his barber shears. He'd been a barber at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center for decades. I arranged them in a circle, captured a photo and had it printed on canvas. It hangs now in my living room. I also dug out Max's work boots. He'd been a machinist at Topeka's Goodyear plant before reiring. (Later he became known as a Kansas author and poet.) The photo shows his empty boots on the garage floor. It is also printed on canvas and displayed in my living room.



*left: View from the Top, Kansas Capitol Dome*

I climbed onto the top of a wall, making me a little nervous, and captured this mirrored image of the Kansas Capitol Dome reflected in windows of the Capper Building, at the SE corner of Capitol Square. At the time Sam Brownback was governor, and I see the photo, slightly, as a political comment on his reign.



*right: Dome Reflection*

The Capitol Dome reflected in windows of the Capper Building, at the SE corner of Capitol Square. At the time Sam Brownback was governor, and I see the photo, slightly, as a political comment on his reign.



## 2018 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award

### The 2018 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award in Literary Nonfiction

was awarded to **Louise Krug** for her fine collection of essays, *Tilted*. Louise is an Assistant Professor of Nonfiction

Writing at Washburn University, and lives in Topeka with her husband, Nick Krug, and two children, Olive, age 6, and Bruce, age 3. She has written two memoirs about her 2005 brain surgeries, *Louise: Amended* (2012) and *Tilted: The Post Brain-Surgery Journals* (2016).

The event, held April 5, 2018, at Mabee Library, included an awards ceremony, a reading, a book signing, and refreshments. Sponsored by the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection and the Friends of Mabee Library, the Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award is named for the parents of Mark and Lisa Hefner Heitz, who have been supporters from the original founding of the collection. In naming the award, Lisa and Mark honor all those who write, who read, and whose lives are enhanced by their engagement with the literature, history and culture of Kansas. As Mark and Lisa wrote:

"A respect for education and the love of books and reading is an integral part of our families, largely due to the influence and example of our parents, Joe and Hazel Heitz and Gene and Reeselynn Hefner. We are proud of our parents, and proud to be

Award sponsored by the  
**Thomas Fox Averill  
Kansas Studies Collection**

associated with the Kansas Book Award."

### The Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection

is an eclectic, inclusive set of materials dedicated to the study of Kansas literature through the state's folklore, history, geography, flora, fauna, social fabric and culture. The holdings include novels, plays, collections of poetry and fiction, histories, biographies, memoirs, letters, scholarly articles, collected folklore, manuscripts and ephemera gathered over my 40+ years of teaching Kansas Literature, Folklore and Film. The collection is building an inclusive and exhaustive body of work dedicated to encouraging the reading and writing of Kansas Literature, as well as being a home for researching and writing about Kansas Literature and Culture.

To support Kansas writers and publicize the collection, the Friends of Mabee Library created an annual book award of \$1,000, recognizing the fine literary work produced by Kansans-people who were born, raised, educated, lived in, or were influenced in their creative work by the Sunflower state. This year's award is for the best book of Literary Nonfiction published in the past three years. Next year will be for poetry, and the year after for fiction. This year's 20+ works nominated in Literary Nonfiction came from all over the country.



## Book Award -cont.

Mary Swander, this year's judge, has published numerous books. Her poetry collections are: *Heaven and Earth House*, *Driving the Body Back*, *Succession*, and *The Girls on the Roof*. Her literary nonfiction includes *Out of This World* and *The Desert Pilgrim*, both published by Viking Press. Her essays, magazine articles and commentaries have appeared in such places as: **The Nation**, *National Public Radio*, *National Gardening Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Poetry*. She is currently the Poet Laureate of Iowa.

Ms. Swander introduced Louise Krug, and spoke to her experience judging and the pleasure of discovering this year's winner. About *Tilted*, *The Post Brain-Surgery Journals*, Swander said: "With swift, crystal clear prose that carries the narrative along with a fierce momentum, Louise Krug writes about disability with insight and awareness. She explores the ramifications of her disability on her career, her relationships and family, and her own self-image. In 99 pages Krug gives us thousands of ideas for creating a world more open to difference."

*The Center for Kansas Studies congratulates Center Fellow **Louise Krug** for winning the 2018 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award.*



# Field Trip




Professor **Deborah Altus** arranged for her "Death and Dying" class to visit the **Ritchie Cemetery** during spring 2018 semester. There, among other topics, they learned about abolitionist **Colonel John Ritchie** and the founding of **Washburn University** as well as social justice in burial practices.




## Kansas Day 2018 Speaker: George Frazier

The annual CKS Kansas Day presentation was well attended on Monday, January 29, 2018. The presentation took place in the newly opened Blitz Gallery, near White Concert Hall, on the Washburn campus. Guest speaker was **George Frazier**, author of *The Last Wild Places in Kansas* (University of Kansas Press), now in its third printing. Included here are photos of Frazier speaking (taken by Peggy Clark, university photographer at Washburn University) and photos of a Kansas Day reception, held prior to the presentation at the Mulvane Art Museum (taken by Kelly Erby, co-director of the Center for Kansas Studies).





**WASHBURN UNIVERSITY  
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KANSAS STUDIES**



Kansas Day  
Presentation

**George Frazier**

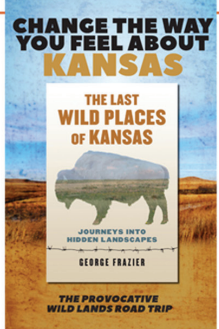
Author: *The Last Wild Places of Kansas* (University Press of Kansas, 2016)

**“The Last Wild Places of Kansas”**

**Mon., Jan. 29, 2018 @ Washburn University**

**2 PM: Reception** — Mulvane Art Museum, Main Floor

**3 PM: Presentation** — Rita Blitt Gallery, just north of White Concert Hall



**CHANGE THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT KANSAS**

**THE LAST WILD PLACES OF KANSAS**

JOURNALS INTO HIDDEN LANDSCAPES

**GEORGE FRAZIER**

THE PROVOCATIVE WILD LANDS ROAD TRIP

**Ready to hit the road?**

The University Press of Kansas just issued the third printing of George Frazier's provocative travelogue *The Last Wild Places of Kansas*. Chronicling three years he spent roaming the Sunflower State by car, canoe, and on foot, the book takes readers to the remaining "wild places" of Kansas, places where nature collides with folklore. From the unexpected wilds of the Kansas City suburbs to the Cimarron National Grassland in the far southwestern corner of the state, Frazier curates an heirloom collection of little-known sites—tenuous stretches of unplowed prairie, centuries old forests, ancient springs, lost Native American landmarks, and other natural gems that have managed to cheat death and incubate the DNA of lost wild America. Packed with stories and a host of curious characters—ranchers, farmers, Native Americans, explorers, wildlife experts, and outdoor enthusiasts—it's the ultimate Kansas wild lands road trip.

## CKS Meeting Summary

January 23, 2018

- I. Meeting called to order 12:17 PM
- II. Updates from CKS Fellows
  - a. **Rachel Goossen**- reminded everyone about History Day on February 24 and asked for fellows to volunteer as judges
  - b. **Tom Averill**- his forthcoming book *Found Documents* will be published in February from the University of New Mexico Press. He will give a reading on March 14 @ 4 PM in Mabee Library, and on Feb. 11 @ 2 PM at the Topeka Public Library. Tom also mentioned that he is negotiating with the Barlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine to bring his *Garden Plot* exhibit there.
  - c. **Kerry Wynn**- has been working with Tom Averill to digitize Karl Menninger letters. She is teaching History in the Community course, focusing on Charles Sheldon and partnering with Old Prairie Town.
  - d. **Judith McConnell**- has been elected president of Early Education Society; she received a Sweet Sabbatical to present a paper in Croatia and has applied for another. Her current research interests are in effective kindergarten teaching practices.
  - e. **Carol Yoho**- had photographs on display at the Classic Bean in Topeka. She mentioned the 22nd Annual Silent Film Festival focusing on women in silent film, which will take place Feb. 23 and 24 in White Concert Hall, Washburn campus.
  - f. **Dennis Etzel, Jr**- is planning his Laura Ingalls Wilder visit in April. He began his research during winter break.
  - g. **Brad Siebert**- applied for a Sabbatical to research structures of Mennonite USA.
  - h. **Will Gilliland**- continues to do display for the Geology Department at Washburn. He has been invited to participate in the KC Gem and Mineral Show and has been elected as a member of the Topeka Gem and Mineral Society.
  - i. **Vanessa Steinroetter**- was invited to submit paper on representations of prairie madness to the *Great Plains Quarterly*.
  - j. **Kelly Erby** has begun some preliminary research on early restaurants in Kansas. Together with Vanessa, she applied to hold a round-table discussion at the upcoming meeting of the American Association of State and Local History on new critical lenses through which to view Kansas and regional studies.
- III. Funding Requests
  - a. **Kerry Wynn** and **Tom Averill** requested \$480 to assist with the digitization of Karl Menninger letters. Request was approved.
- IV. **Kansas Day update**- lecture will take place on Jan. 29 at 3 PM in Blitt Gallery. Speaker is George Frazier, author of *The Last Wild Places of Kansas*. Catered reception will take place before the lecture, at 2 PM, in the Mulvane.
- V. Please let CKS directors know if you will be teaching a Kansas Studies course in the fall.
- VI. Please consider sending stories about student successes, or work you are doing, for the FB and newsletters.
- VII. Final meeting of the year will be in early April. Date will be finalized and announced shortly.
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 1 PM.



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Center for Kansas Studies

## Speaking of Kansas

Spring 2018

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## Carol Yoho's Digital Photography: Local, Regional & International

— pages 6 & 7 —



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