

**Kansas Humanities Council
Community Heritage Grant Application**

PART A: SPONSOR INFORMATION

- 1. Patchwork of Dependency: The Effects of World War II On Edwards County, Kansas**
- 2. Oral History**
- 3. Kinsley Public Library**
208 E. 8th St.
Kinsley, KS 67547
- 4. Phone:** 620-659-3341
Email: kinlib@kl.kscoxmail.com
Website: www.kinsleylibrary.info
Fax: 620-659-3613 (Share fax with City, prefer e-mail, or e-mail notification of incoming fax)
- 5. Authoring Official:** Joan K. Weaver, Kinsley Library Director
- 6. Signature:** _____
- 7. Authoring Official Address:** same as above
- 8. Project Director:** Joan K. Weaver, Kinsley Library Director
- 9. Project Director Address:** Same as above
- 10. Consultant:** Darlene Clifton-Smith
- 11. Bookkeeper:** Virginia Gleason
- 12. Bookkeeper Address:** 909 E. 5th St, Kinsley, KS 67547
- 13. Amount of Grant Request:** \$3341
- 14. Project Starting and Ending Dates:** January 2, 2009 to February 28, 2010
- 15. Project Summary:** The Kinsley Library staff will conduct twenty interviews of citizens associated with Edwards County from 1939-1948 to discover and preserve the story of how Edwards County, Kansas was affected by World War II. Interviews will be recorded on DVD and CD with transcripts made and copies archived at the Kinsley Library, the Kansas Historical Society, Edwards County Historical Society and Kansas Folklore Society.

PART B: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Describe the sponsoring organization.

The Kinsley Public Library is a city library that serves the citizens of Kinsley (population 1,658) and Edwards County (population 3,449). It operates on a \$92,913 budget derived mainly from a city tax levy amounting to \$74,543 a year. Remaining funding comes from the Southwest Kansas Library System, the State Library of Kansas, grants, fines, book sales, and donations.

The library is administered by a seven member board appointed by the Kinsley City Commission. The staff consists of a director, one librarian, and a part-time library clerk. The library is open 44 hours per week with a collection of 26,800 items and 6 public Internet terminals. The Kinsley Library is rated 5th in the state for its public programming, service, and resources among libraries serving populations of 1500 to 2499. The library is dedicated to discovering, preserving, and making accessible the local heritage to the public. Its website (www.kinsleylibrary.info) hosts extensive local resources which are continually being generated and added online by dedicated staff and volunteers.

In 2001, under a Library Service and Technology Grant from the Kansas Library Network Board, the library partnered with the Edwards County Historical Society to digitize 220 photographs to create the *Historic Downtown Kinsley Digital Map*. Accompanying metadata was entered into the library collection catalog. The project is being sustained by the library and recently another 200 pictures with catalogued metadata were added.

The library began collecting oral histories several years ago. From 2001 to 2004, the library director conducted interviews for a monthly “From the Bookshelf of” display and

two veteran memorabilia exhibits. The interviews were archived in the library and featured in the local newspaper. Subsequently, she encouraged the English teacher to have his high school senior class interview veterans for the local collection and the Library of Congress *Veterans Project*. From 2004-2006, 18 taped interviews with transcripts were generated.

In 2004 a summer reading teen group conducted and recorded local interviews with a retired ophthalmologist, a Bosnian refugee, a participant of the 1994 “Last Cattle Drive,” and one teen’s grandmother. These were transcribed by an adult volunteer, catalogued, and entered into the library collection.

During the last few years, the library staff has conducted several interviews with elderly residents in cooperation with the Kansas Folklore Society and following their guidelines. These oral histories were discontinued when the volunteer transcriber moved from Edwards County. This small community has no one else with that talent and no funds to hire a professional.

2. Explain your project in detail.

The wounds of the Great Depression with its failed banks and foreclosed farms were still open in Edwards County as the country entered World War II. The war helped the economy recover while demanding many sacrifices which made the people and communities more dependent on one another. It was a time when the people in small rural towns came together to support each other and the war effort. Edwards County was a patchwork of seven communities: Belpre, Centerview, Fellsburg, Offerle, Kinsley, Lewis and Trousdale. The economy was based on agriculture, small business, and the railroad. The Kinsley Library would like to conduct twenty interviews of citizens living in Edwards County from 1939-1948 to discover and record the effect that World War II had on the people and communities in Edwards County.

The Kinsley Library Director and Librarian will be the interviewers. They will be given release time from their library duties to conduct interviews in the interviewees' homes. They will conduct 2 interviews for 10 months for a total of 20 interviews. To accomplish this, an interview release form (Appendix A), an outline of interview questions (Appendix B) and a timeline (Appendix C) are included. The interviews will be audio taped and a digital photograph will be taken of each interviewee to accompany the finished transcript.

In November, 2008 a committee was formed, consisting of the Kinsley Library Director, Kinsley Librarian, and representatives from Belpre, Centerview, Fellsburg, Offerle, Kinsley, Lewis and Trousdale chosen by our project partner, the Edwards County Historical Society. Representatives were selected for their knowledge of the history of the people who live in their area. The committee generated a list of potential interviewees to represent the different communities and research interests (See Appendix D).

3. Why is your project important?

World War II changed the history of people and communities all over America. The witnesses of this era are now old. They are moving away to be closer to children who long ago left rural Kansas. They are also dying at a rapid rate. Before they are gone, it is important to find out and preserve how World War II affected their lives and changed our communities.

Many questions need to be answered before it is too late. How did the war affect the soldier who left? Was this the beginning of the drain away from the farm? If they did come back did a larger world view shape them and their sense of community? How did communities support families whose men were in the military? Some women left to work in war plants or Washington. How did this change their lives and the role of women in this rural county? Some men were needed to stay home with agricultural deferments to grow the crops to sustain the nation and troops. How did the shortage of laborers change how farming was done?

Did it increase the role of women on the farm? The communities along the Santa Fe Railroad had early Hispanic residents who maintained the tracks and depots. What was the citizenship status of these workers? Did these families play a role in the military? Was military service a road to citizenship? Did the experiences of both white and minority soldiers affect local discrimination after the war? The Brodbeck Carnival was home-based in Kinsley. Did the war affect this entertainment business? How?

Just as these witnesses are of a by-gone era, so has rural Kansas life become a lifestyle of the past. The examination of the answers to the above questions can help us understand how this major war influenced our county then and even now, perhaps contributing to today's economic decline. Looking back from this vantage point gives perspective for understanding.

It is also important to undertake this project at this time because Rosetta Graff is already working beyond retirement and Joan Weaver will retire in a few years. The most must be made of their interest, knowledge, dedication, and expertise while they are still working in the community.

4. Identify and describe your project partner.

The Edwards County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, began in 1955 and is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the county. Their board oversees the Edwards County Sod House & Museum complex which is open May thru October with a full-time curator. The society helped with the selection of the committee members to choose possible interviewees. They will also archive copies of CDs and transcripts in the museum.

We will also share the resulting interviews and transcripts with the Kansas Folklore Society for their archive and offer them to the Kansas State Historical Society.

5. What will the consultant do?

Because the library staff has some experience with oral histories and some past training provided by the Kansas Folklore Society, the consultant will be utilized for additional expertise and trouble shooting any problems and challenges that might arise. We will have an initial meeting before the interviews begin to discuss interview procedures and techniques and the proposed questions. After the first two interviews are completed, they will be sent to the consultant for evaluation and feedback. The consultant will be available to answer questions and advise throughout the project.

6. Identify key individuals involved in the project and describe their responsibilities.

Joan Weaver, the Kinsley Library Director since 1997, will apply for the grant and generally oversee the project. She has a BS + 30 hrs in English Language and Literature and Speech and Dramatic Arts. Because of her leadership in the *Historical Downtown Kinsley Digital Map* project, she was invited in July, 2008 to represent Kansas at the IMLS *Preservation Summit* in Washington, DC. She will conduct interviews, operate recording equipment, dub and distribute tapes. She will generate press releases, design informational webpage on project, and submit final report to KHC.

Rosetta Graff is a 35-year veteran librarian. She serves as the secretary of the Edwards County Historical Society and on the Edwards County Cemetery Board. She has been instrumental in the research and preservation of local history and genealogy. She is trained in cataloguing. She will set up interviews, conduct interviews, generate the metadata and enter it into the library collection catalog.

Library Clerk Dawn Haynes will dub tapes and copy transcripts. She will package tapes and transcriptions appropriately for archiving, public access and sharing with partners.

Donna Raskin of Walnut Street Transcription & Business Service, 507 Walnut, Kansas City, MO. 64106, will be hired to do the verbatim transcriptions.

Virginia Gleason, the bookkeeper, is a Kinsley Library Board member. She helped prepare the budget, will keep an accounting of the grant funds and submit invoices to the library director for payment. She will generate the final accounting report.

Darlene Clifton-Smith, the consultant, will work with the library director and librarian in training, evaluating, problem solving, and proofreading the final product. She has been a KHC consultant on other projects and was recommended by the KHC for this project.

7. Describe Plans for sharing the results of this project with the general public.

An archival CD and a circulating CD of the interviews and transcriptions with photographs will be housed in the Kinsley Library. Metadata describing the interviews will be entered into the online *Kinsley Library Collection Catalog*. A webpage of the project and interviewees will be linked on the *Genealogy and Local History* page of the library website.

The interviews and transcripts with photographs of the interviewees will also be deposited with the Edwards County Historical Society, the Kansas Folklore Society and offered to the Kansas State Historical Society.

A series of press releases featuring highlights from each interview will be published in the Edwards County *Sentinel*. At the completion of the project, articles describing the outcome and its impact will be submitted for publication in newsletters sponsored by the Southwest Kansas Library System, the Kansas State Library, the Kansas Humanities Council, the Kansas Folklore Society, and the Kansas State Historical Society.

PART C: BUDGET

1. Project Staff	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Joan Weaver, project director & interviewer \$14.50 X 120 hours	\$0	\$1,740	\$1,740
Rosetta Graff, interviewer & metadata \$13.00 X 110 hours	\$0	\$1,430	\$1,430
Donna Raskin, Walnut Transcription Service \$ 25 X 80 hours	\$2,000		\$2,000
Virginia Gleason, Bookkeeper \$10.00 X 10 hours (Volunteer)	\$0	\$ 100	\$ 100
2. Consultant	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Darlene Clifton-Smith, Consultant Includes site visit and training, proofreading final product by e-mail	\$ 300		\$ 300
3. Travel & Per Diem	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Joan Weaver, interviewer In-county travel: 280 miles @58.5	\$ 162		\$ 162
Darlene Clifton-Smith, Consultant 70 miles X 2 times = 140 @ 58.5	\$ 82		\$ 82
4. Supplies & Equipment	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Digital Camera (Interviewee picture)		\$ 200	\$ 200
Laptop Computer for CD recording		\$1,000	\$ 1,000
Microphone for computer		\$ 20	\$ 20
5. Duplicating & Printing	KHC	Cost Share	Total
120 Archival CD's at \$2/CD	\$ 240		\$ 240
20 copies of Consent/Release forms X 20¢	\$ 8		\$ 8
10 copies of Interview questions X 20¢	\$ 8		\$ 8
20 transcripts x 15 pages X 6 copies X 20¢	\$ 360		\$ 360
Copper Guard CD Storage pages (20 CDs/7.40 x6)	\$ 45		\$ 45
Binders 6 X \$12	\$ 72		\$ 72
Postage to transcriber 10 X \$2.02	\$ 20		\$ 20
6. Local Facilities	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Telephone 14 months @ \$5/mo		\$ 70	\$ 70
Office Space 14 months X \$300		\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200
7. Other	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Postage/packaging (mailing to archives & contributors)	\$ 44		\$ 44
8. Total Grant Funds & Cost Share	KHC	Cost Share	Total
	\$ 3,341	\$ 8,760	\$12,101

APPENDIX B - Kinsley Library

PATCHWORK OF DEPENDENCY: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

A. Identification and warm-up questions:

1. What is your full name?
2. Where do you currently reside?
3. When and where were you born?
4. What were the names of your parents? grandparents?
5. Describe the make up of the household you grew up in.
6. What brought you/your parents/grandparents to Edwards County originally? Where did they settle?

B. Background to World War II (1930s):

If you were living in Edwards County, what memories do you have of your family during the Great Depression and the circumstances your family was in during the 1930s leading up to the United States entering the war?

C. Personal Involvement With and Effects of World War II (1941-1945):

1. What was your age on Dec. 7, 1941 when the United States was drawn into the war?
What do you remember about hearing the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor?
2. Were members of your family in the military service during WWII?
Who were they? When did they enlist? In what branch? Where did they serve?
How did their absence affect the family? The community?
3. What was your occupation during World War II: (Choose appropriate question set)
 - a. Military Service:
Describe your service. Why did you serve (enlistment/draft)? What branch?
How long did you serve? Where did you serve? Were you married or single?
With children? What was your occupation before going to war? Describe your deployment and involvement. How do you think the war affected you?
your parents/wife/children?

b. Agricultural Deferment:

Why were you given an agricultural deferment? How did you feel about not serving in the military? How was your work on the farm affected by the war (labor/economics)? Did the war bring the remaining farmers and communities together? If yes, can you give specific examples of cooperation and dependency? What was the role and effect of the County Extension Office or other governmental agencies or programs during the war?

c. War Related Occupation:

Why did you choose to work for the war effort? Where did you work during the war? What was your life like? How did leaving Edwards County and going to work for the war effort affect you and your family? How did people leaving to fill war effort jobs affect the communities in Edwards County?

d. Non-war Related Occupation:

What was your occupation? Was this your pre-war occupation or did you go into something new? If a woman, did you step into a man's job. How did you feel about not serving in the military? Did this job change in anyway because of the war?

e. Housewife/Farmwife:

1) Husband in service: How was your family affected by the absence of your husband? Did your responsibilities change? How was life different during the war? What sacrifices were made in support of the war? Did friends, extended family, the community support your family and how? What support did you offer to others?

2) Husband present: What sacrifices were made in your home in support of the war? How was life different during the war? Did friends, extended family, and the community support your family and how? What support did you offer to others?

f. Child or Teen:

What was it like to grow up during the war? How did the war affect your family? Did your responsibilities change in your family or the community? Did school change? Did entertainment change?

Additional Questions to the above that address specific demographics:

g. Hispanic:

During the war, were you a U.S. citizen? in the U.S. legally? or in the U.S. illegally? Did you experience discrimination before or during the war? How? What changes did you experience in the Hispanic community due to the war? Were these the same or different from the white population? Was service in the military a pathway to United States citizenship?

h. Black:

Did you experience discrimination before or during the war? How? What changes did you experience due to the war? Were these the same or different from the white population?

i. Women:

Did the war affect the roles and responsibilities of women in Edwards County? How? Did you see these changes as positive or negative? Were they permanent or did life revert back to what it had been before the war?

D. You and the Community After World War II (1946-1948):

1. What was your age on VE Day/VJ Day? Where were you when you heard the news. Do you remember your thoughts? Did you do anything to celebrate. How was the end of the war celebrated in Edwards County?
2. What happened when the soldiers returned? How did the community respond to them?
3. How did the community respond to war casualties? to their families?
4. Describe your life for the first three years after the war.

a. Military Service:

Describe your experiences when you returned from military service. Did your family and the community support your return and how? What was your occupation after you were discharged? Did you take advantage of the GI Bill? Was this choice affected by your experiences in the war? or by the state of the country when you returned? Do you see your choices as positive or negative?

b. Agricultural Deferment:

What did you do during the first 3 years after the war? How did the end of the war affect the farm economy/labor?

c. War-related Occupation:

Was your life or your outlook affected by this job? Did the returning work force affect your job? What was your occupation for the next 3 years.

d. Non-war Related Occupation:

After the war, did you continue with the same occupation as during the war or do something else? Did the returning work force affect your job?

e. Housewife/Farmwife:

- 1) If a veteran's wife, describe the reintegration of your husband into the family. How were your life and duties affected by the end of the war.
2. If a non-veteran wife, what changes did the end of the war bring to your family and the community?

f. Child or Teen:

Where there changes in your family and the community after the war? How do you think growing up during the war affected your life?

Additional Questions to the above that address specific demographics:

g. Hispanic and Black

Did life in Edwards County change for you or other in your ethnic group after the war? How? Did you experience any change in discrimination or treatment?

i. Women:

What changes did the war bring to you? to the status of women in Edwards County? Were the changes permanent or temporary?

F. Concluding thoughts:

1. Summarize the highlights of your life for the last 60 years since the war.
2. Looking back, overall, how would you describe the effects of World War II on your life?
3. Do you think World War II made changes for the people of Edwards County? How? Were these changes positive, negative or both?

APPENDIX C - Kinsley Library

PATCHWORK OF DEPENDENCY: TIMELINE

December 2008	<p>Notification of Grant Award by KHC Accounting system established by Gleason Supplies & Equipment purchased or secured by Weaver Weaver issues press release of Grant Award to Edwards County <i>Sentinel</i>, SWKLS newsletter, and Kansas State Library newsletter</p>
Early January, 2009	<p>Consultant meets with Weaver and Graff to offer expertise on interviewing requirements, procedures, and techniques.</p>
Jan. – Feb., 2009	<p>Two appointments made and interviews conducted by Weaver & Graff Interviews sent to consultant for evaluation and feedback.</p>
Feb. – Nov., 2009	<p>Two appointments made and interviews conducted each month Each month, the tapes are dubbed by Haynes with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. one archival copy stored at the library b. one copy sent out by Weaver for transcription (this will become the circulation copy) c. three copies temporarily stored off-site for other archives
Feb. – Dec, 2009	<p>As transcriptions are returned to the library, 6 copies are made by Haynes The interviews are catalogued into the collection by Graff The transcription CD and copy of transcription are processed for library archive and public access by Haynes Regular press releases are generated by Weaver from the interviews for special monthly column highlighting the project in Edwards County <i>Sentinel</i> Webpage added to the Kinsley Library website by Weaver that describes the project and highlights on-going interviews.</p>
January 2010	<p>Copies of interviews and transcripts are packaged by Weaver and sent to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Edwards County Historical Society b. Kansas Folklore Society c. Kansas Historical Society. d. Interviewee with thank you for participation e. National Carnival Heritage Foundation located in Kinsley will receive interview dealing with carnival history
February 2010:	<p>Weaver will issue press release about project to Edwards County <i>Sentinel</i>, Dodge City <i>Globe</i>, Hutchinson <i>News</i>, Southwest Kansas Library System <i>System Scene Newsletter</i>, Kansas State Library <i>Kansas Libraries Newsletter</i>, Kansas Folklore Society <i>Newsletter</i> Webpage finalized on library website by Weaver Final Budget generated by Gleason Final Grant Report submitted by Weaver</p>

APPENDIX D - Kinsley Library

PATCHWORK OF DEPENDENCY: POSSIBLE INTERVIEWEES

(Final 20 participants chosen to ensure coverage of demographic interests)

Geographic Area	Name	Research Focus
		<small>(farming deferments, farm labor, veteran, GI bill, woman at home, woman in war plants, Hispanic railroad, carnival, county extension, farm boy)</small>
Belpre	Ed Scheufler	Veteran (three brothers)
	Paul Scheufler	Veteran
	Charles Scheufler	Veteran
Lewis	Nellie Schnitker	Worked as telephone operator
	Jean Titus	Traveled with husband
	Bill Updegrove	Teen
	Velda Updegrove	Teen
	Irene Woolard	Housewife
	William McLean	Farmer
	Tootie Negrete	Hispanic Waitress
Trousdale	Robert E. Julian	Left area
	Welton Parker	Farmer
Centerview	Jeff Mead	Teenage farm boy
	Marcile King	Housewife
Fellsburg	Jacob Roenbaugh	Farmer
	Kay Carney	Soldier wife
Offerle	Cordelia Gall	Farmwife
	Wilma Lancaster	Farmwife
Kinsley	John J. Riisoe	Veteran
	Bob Weidenheimer	Veteran
	Otto Stach	Veteran
	Rex Strate	Veteran
	Buford Brodbeck	Carnival History
	Kenny Dupree	Brother died in war
	Reyes Amaro	Spanish Railroad
	Virginia Rapp	Business/housewife
	Jack Gleason	Farmer
	Celesta Taylor	War plant
	Gaines (one member of family)	Black resident
Mary Fox	Child	