

**Kansas Humanities Council
Community Heritage Grant Application**

PART A: SPONSOR INFORMATION

1. *Patterns of Change: Edwards County, Kansas, 1950-1970*

2. Oral History

3. **Kinsley Public Library**

208 E. 8th St.

Kinsley, KS 67547

Phone: 620-659-3341

Email: director@kinsleylibrary.info

Website: www.kinsleylibrary.info

Fax: 620-659-3613 (prefer e-mail)

4. **Authoring Official:** Joan K. Weaver, Kinsley Library Director

Signature: _____

5. **Project Director:** Joan K. Weaver, Kinsley Library Director

6. **Consultant:** Virgil Dean, Kansas State Historical Society

7. **Bookkeeper:** Virginia Gleason, Kinsley Library Board Chair

909 E. 5th St

Kinsley, KS 67547

Phone: 620-659-2851

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8. **Total amount of Heritage Grant Request:** \$3,252

9. **Total amount of Cost Share provided:** \$12,752

10. **Project Starting and Ending Dates:** January 2, 2011 to February 28, 2012

PART B: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Sponsoring Organization.

The Kinsley Public Library is a city library that serves the citizens of Kinsley (population 1,442) and Edwards County (population 3,071). It operates on a \$101,760 budget derived mainly from a city tax levy amounting to \$75,000 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 27,000 items and 6 public Internet terminals. The Kinsley Library has been 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 by the dedicated staff and many volunteers. The collection now includes over 550 digitized and catalogued images, 17 Library of Congress Veteran History Project interviews, 9 local oral histories which grew with the addition of 22 more with the successful completion of the 2009 KHC grant award for *Patchwork of Dependency: The Effects of World War II on Edwards County*. A 76 page on-line book illustrating the architectural styles of Kinsley houses with accompanying historical notes was added this spring as an outgrowth of NEH *Picturing America* programming. This fall, we are looking forward to generating the metadata for the National Foundation for Carnival Heritage images to fulfill their KHC grant. Their images and the metadata will be made available on the library website and in the collection catalog.

2. Project.

In 2009, the KHC *Patchwork of Dependency* project began to record oral histories of some of the most elderly residents of Edwards County who lived through the Dust Bowl days and World War II. The interviewees came from the county's seven autonomous communities: Belpre (*established* 1878), Centerview (1915), Fellsburg (1917), Offerle (1876), Kinsley (1873), Lewis (1886), and Trousdale (1915). We discovered that during the 1930's and 1940's, the population began to leave due to the drought and war-related occupations. The Kinsley Library would like to continue the exploration of life in Edwards County by conducting twenty interviews of citizens who lived here during the 1950's and 1960's to further discover and preserve the story of why and how Edwards County, Kansas adjusted to the changes brought about by the decline in population.

A committee made up of the Kinsley Library Director and the Kinsley Librarian and a representative from the Edwards County Historical Society is currently consulting with residents of Belpre, Centerview, Fellsburg, Offerle, Kinsley, Lewis and Trousdale to select interviewees who represent the research interests from the 1) business, 2) agricultural, 3) religious, 4) medical, 5) library, and 6) educational demographics. A preliminary list of potential interviewees to represent the different communities and research interests are in the process of being generated (Appendix C).

The Kinsley Library Director and Librarian will be the interviewers as they were in the *Patchwork* grant. They will be given release time from their library duties to conduct interviews in the interviewees' homes. They will conduct 2 interviews a month for 10 months for a total of 20 interviews. To accomplish this, an interview release form (Appendix A) and an outline of interview questions (Appendix B) are included. Each oral history will consist of a complete electronic audio recording, transcription, short video excerpt, and still portrait. Participants will be asked for access to scan personal photographs taken during these decades. The entire multimedia package will be accessible on the library website and archived at the Kinsley Library, the Kansas Historical Society, Edwards County Historical Society and Kansas Folklore Society.

3. People.

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 directed the very successful *Patchwork of Dependency* Heritage Grant (2009). She will conduct interviews, operate recording equipment, proofread transcriptions, copy and distribute the finished oral histories. She will generate press releases, design an informational webpage on the project, design the open house, evaluate the projects, and submit the final report to KHC.

Rosetta Graff is a 36-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 and conduct interviews, generate the metadata and enter it into the library collection catalog as she successfully did with the *Patchwork of Dependency* grant.

Cara Vanderee, Ashland, KS will be hired to do the verbatim transcriptions. She is a professional transcriptionist and librarian. She did most of the *Patchwork of Dependency* transcriptions, and we were very pleased with her work.

Virginia Gleason will be the bookkeeper as she was for the *Patchwork of Dependency*. She is the Kinsley Library Board chairperson. She helped prepare the budget, will keep an accounting of the grant funds and will submit invoices to the library director for payment. She will generate the final accounting report.

Dr. Virgil Dean will be the consultant. He received his Ph.D. in U. S. History from the University of Kansas in 1991. He has been a historian for the Kansas State Historical Society, Center for Historical Research in Topeka, Kansas since 1987. He has served as Editor of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* since 1991. Dr. Dean has been a history professor, served on numerous research projects and committees, and authored/edited articles and books, the latest being: *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2006.

4. Consultant.

The successful *Patchwork of Dependency* grant demonstrated our competence in basic and technical skills in gathering oral histories. Dr. Dean's expertise in the historical period and interpretation will provide guidance and valuable insight. He is helping us develop our focus and interview questions and will assist in the interpretation of the oral histories in regard to the time period under investigation. He will provide us with input for the final project evaluation.

5. Community Significance.

Kansas 150 celebrates the statehood of Kansas and her people. Edwards County was organized 13 years later in 1874 by people who still have descendants living in the county today. Those early years brought people seeking farmland and business opportunities to an area opened up by the Santa Fe Railroad. By 1920, 7,057 people lived in the county.

Today, the citizens of Edwards County live with the reality of low population density (3,071) and the designation as a "Frontier" county. The interviews and research conducted during the *Patchwork of Dependency* project revealed that the beginnings of the exodus from the county was brought on by the drought days of the Dust Bowl followed by the demands of World War II. The modern mechanization of the farm, educational opportunities provided by the G.I. Bill, and available jobs in cities would continue this trend in the years following the war. Declining population brought about many changes and consolidations in the county's small communities, businesses, farms, schools, libraries, churches, and medical facilities. We hope to rediscover the conditions and changes in Edwards County from the people who experienced it to give insight into facing these same challenges which continue today.

One regret of the *Patchwork of Dependency* project was that we waited too long to be able to record many oral histories. The same is true for this era as many of the community leaders in the 50's and 60's were the World War II generation. It was their children who faced the decisions of continuing to live here and sustain viable communities and farms. By proceeding expeditiously, we will be able extend the research while the people are still living.

Rural and small town life continues to be a disappearing Kansas lifestyles of the past. It is important to understand how Kansans have and continue to struggle with the changes necessary to remain viable and preserve a way of life begun 150 years ago. Looking back from this vantage point gives perspective for understanding and moving into the future.

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

6. Timeline.

November 12, 2010	Notification of Grant Award by KHC
November, 2010	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. Webpage added to the Kinsley Library website by Weaver that announces the grant award and describes the project. Letters written to Senator and Representative
Nov. - Dec, 2011	Communication between consultant and Weaver to further develop, refine and focus the interview questions.
Jan. – Nov., 2011	Two appointments made and interviews conducted each month Each month, the audio interviews are reproduced: <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 stored off-site for other archives & interviewee
Feb. – Dec, 2011	As transcriptions are returned to the library: Transcripts are proofread and 6 photocopies are made The interviews are catalogued into the collection by Graff The audio CD and copy of transcription are processed for library archive and public access Interviews, transcripts, and images are added to the website Regular press releases are generated by Weaver from the interviews highlighting the project in the Edwards County <i>Sentinel</i>
January 2012	Copies of interviews and transcripts are packaged by Weaver and sent to: <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
February 2012:	Weaver will issue press release about project to Edwards County <i>Sentinel</i> , <i>Dodge City Globe</i> , <i>Hutchinson News</i> , <i>Wichita Eagle</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 Interpretation of data and evaluation consultations with Dr. Dean. Final Grant Report submitted by Weaver Public Open House recognizing interviewees and celebrated the story of Edwards County

7. Sharing the Results.

An archival CD and transcriptions with interviewee portrait and personal photographs will be housed at the Kinsley Library. Metadata describing the interviews will be entered into the online *Kinsley Library Collection Catalog* and Kansas Library Catalog. A webpage of the project and interviewees' audio histories, transcriptions, portraits, personal photographs, and video clips will be built on the library website.

Each interviewee's audio history, transcripts, portrait, and photographs will also be archived with the Edwards County Historical Society, the Kansas Folklore Society and the Kansas State Historical Society.

A series of press releases 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, Dodge City *Daily Globe*, Hutchinson *News*, and Wichita *Eagle*. A display will be mounted and an open house held recognizing the participants after the completion with invitations sent to interviewees, members of relevant organizations, and local, district and state government officials.

8. Project Goals and Evaluation.

Goal # 1. To discover how citizens felt and reacted to the changes brought on by a decline in population in the 1950's and 1960's. Joan Weaver and Rosetta Graff will extract and distill this information from the interview transcripts and put it in a concise written format.

Goal # 2. To provide the public with historical insight on how Edwards County faced and reacted to the changes which are now accepted as the norm. This may help bring perspective to the continued challenges faced by sparse population today. Joan Weaver and Rosetta Graff will share the Goal #1 historical information with the community through newspaper articles, displays, the open house, and discussions in the library, service organizations, and local coffee klatches.

Dr. Dean, Weaver and Graff will do an evaluation of the project. The success will be determined by the completion of the oral histories and the response of the community, including: the amount of discussion the articles and open house generate; the feedback from other communities, historical entities, and libraries; and the response to the webpage in hits and email. We hope to duplicate the interest and pride in the heritage of the community that was generated and openly expressed during the *Patchwork of Dependency* grant.

PART C: BUDGET

1. Project Staff.	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Joan Weaver, project director & interviewer \$16.35 X 350 hours	\$0	\$5,722	\$5,722
Rosetta Graff, interviewer & metadata \$13.00 X 100 hours	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,300
Cara Vanderee, Transcriber \$ 100 X 20 \$2,000	\$2,000		
Virginia Gleason, Bookkeeper \$10.00 X 10 hours (Volunteer)	\$0	\$ 100	\$ 100
SWKLS Technology Consultant \$40 X 10 hours (Contracted)		\$ 40	\$ 40
2. Consultant	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Consultant (development of questions, final interpretation & evaluation)	\$ 150		\$ 150
3. Travel & Per Diem.	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Joan Weaver, interviewer Travel to interviews: 600 miles @ .41 <small>(Based on actual mileage with similar 2009 Patchwork grant)</small>	\$ 246		\$ 246
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
50 Archival CD's	\$ 160		\$ 160
50 CD's	\$ 20		\$ 20
CD storage pages, 6 pkg. @ 7.55	\$ 45		\$ 45
20 copies of Consent/Release forms X 20¢	\$ 8		\$ 8
10 copies of Interview questions X 20¢	\$ 8		\$ 8
20 transcripts x 20 pages X 6 copies X 20¢	\$ 450		\$ 450
3 Cases for CD and Transcripts	\$ 90		\$ 90
50 Open House Invitations @ 50¢	\$ 25		\$ 25
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	\$ 50		\$ 50
Open House Refreshments & Décor		\$ 100	\$ 100
8. Total Grant Funds & Cost Share.	KHC	Cost Share	Total
Budget Narrative	\$3,252	\$12,752	\$ 16,004

APPENDIX A - Kinsley Library

APPENDIX B - Kinsley Library

PATTERNS OF CHANGE: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

(Questions are under development)

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: Depending on the interviewee's age:

If you were living in Edwards County, what memories do you have of your family during the years before 1950?

1. What are your memories of World War II?
2. 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?
3. What was it like to grow up during the war? How did the war affect your family?

C. Business Changes:

1. Which community did you identify with during the 1950's and 1960'?
2. Do you remember how many businesses there were and the types of businesses?
3. Where did you trade for daily goods? For groceries, pharmaceuticals, general merchandise?
Where did you trade for clothing and shoes?
Where did you purchase high ticket items like cars, farm implements, furniture, appliances, lumber and home repair?
Where did you go for entertainment: the movies, skating, bowling, dancing, drinking, other?
4. What, if any, were the changes made in your business patronage during these decades?
5. Was your family involved in the business community? Who owned the business? How many people were employed at the business. What changes did the business experience during these decades? What happened to the business – was it passed down in the family, sold, or discontinued.

C. Agricultural Changes: (For families involved with agriculture)

1. Describe your farm? How had it been acquired? How large was it? What implements did the farm own? What crops and/or livestock did you raise?
2. How many people worked on the farm? Family members or hired hands? Were there seasonal workers for harvest?
3. What changes did you see in these decades? Changes in mechanization? Use of irrigation? Use of fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides? Changes in crops or livestock produced? Or in the concentration of one cash crop and different emphasis on livestock, chickens? Did anyone work off-farm to supplement the farm income?
4. What advancements were made in rural electrification and rural telephone service?
4. What happened to the family farm? Did the children take it over or was it sold? Did the farm grow or decrease in size during these decades?
5. If children did not become farmers, what did they do? Education, Military Service, Careers?

D. School Changes:

1. Where did you attend school? How many students were in your class? in your school?
2. During the 1950's and 1960's many schools were closed and consolidated. What do you remember about your school and consolidation? How were you affected? Do you remember if there was controversy over consolidation? If so, what were the conflicts and how were they resolved and adjusted to?
3. Were Ag classes offered when you were in school? Was there an FFA? 4-H?
4. What class was the school in sports? What sports were offered?
5. Did you attend higher education? Had your parents? Have your children?
6. If you attended higher education, what did you study or get your degree in. Did this study lead to a career?
7. Why did you stay/leave Edwards County? How many people in your high school graduating class stayed in Edwards County? Why did the ones who left leave?

E. Church changes:

1. Was your family active in a church? Which denomination in which community?
2. How big was your congregation? Did you have a full-time minister? How many services and what activities were offered each week?
3. Did you see any changes in your church or other churches during these decades?

F. Healthcare changes:

1. Where did you go the doctor? the dentist? the optometrist? the hospital? and to have a baby?
2. Which of these services were available in your community?
3. What effect did Edwards County Hospital have on this rural county?
4. What changes did you see in healthcare services during these decades?

G. Military Service (if applicable) Korean Conflict and/or Vietnam Conflict

1. Why did you or your spouse go into the service?
2. Tell us about your tour of duty? Dates, rank, places served, experiences?
3. What did you do after your discharge? Did the service effect whether you returned to Edwards County?

H. Additional Questions to the above that address specific demographics:

1. Hispanic and Black Communities:

(Hispanic) When did your family become citizens?

How large/small was the Hispanic/Black population?

What occupations were the Hispanics/Blacks involved in?

Did you experience discrimination? How?

What were the changes in the Hispanic/Black community during these decades?

2. Women:

Did you see any changes in the roles of women during these decades? Explain.

F. Concluding thoughts:

1. Summarize the highlights of your life for the last 40 years since 1970.
2. Looking back, overall, how do you think living in Edwards County affected your life?
3. The population has continued to decrease since 1970? How has that affected life here?
4. What do you see for the future of Edwards County?

APPENDIX C - Kinsley Library

PATTERNS OF CHANGE: POSSIBLE INTERVIEWEES

(Initial Development:

Final 20 participants chosen to ensure willingness and coverage of demographic interests)

Geographic Area	Name	Research Focus
Belpre	David Kearney	Historian
	Jon Deege	Farmer
Lewis	Norman Elliott	Business (moved to Kinsley)
	Nellie Schnitker	Telephone operator
	Bill Updegrove	Manufacturing
	Velda Updegrove	Homemaker
	Farold Fox	Farmer
	Bill Stapleton	Education & farming
	Leroy/Ethel Sparke	Farmer/Gov. Employee
	Donna Newsome	Farmer
	Keith King	Farmer
	Judy & Bob McKinney	Farmer, Health
	Cross	Cross Manufacturing
Trousedale	Boyd Mundhenke	Farming
	George Hetzel	
Trousdale	Robert E. Julian	Farmer -left area
Centerview	Richard Dimmick	Farmer
Fellsburg	Marlin Butler	Farmer
Offerle	Galen Boehme	Farm family and Educator
	Jack Kersting	On School Board during consolidation
Kinsley	Rex Strate	Business owner
	Gaines (one member of family)	Black resident
	Mary Fox	Business owner
	Susan Mathes	Business
	Dennis Kindvater	Business
	Melvin Schinstock	Farmer
	Marilyn Pierce	Church
	Bill Olson	Farmer
	Ron or Venita Schultz	Farmer
	Dan Woolard	Manufacturing
	Beverly Craft	City and Librarian
	Leland Brodbeck	Left community
St. Peter & Paul	Richard Dockendorf	Farmer