

National History Day topic suggestions for 2020 Theme “Breaking Barriers in History”

Truman Topics

- **Truman and the Korean War**

Truman’s decision to go the UN instead of Congress, could be considered as a topic for Breaking Barriers. It was an unprecedented move which led to future presidents taking action in foreign countries without consulting Congress. It was also the first time that the UN had acted as a military force.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/korean-war-and-its-origins>

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/united-nations-1945-1953>

- **Truman Executive Order 9981 Integration of the Armed Forces**

Following World War II, with the dawning of the Cold War, African Americans comprised approximately 10% of American Armed forces, yet segregation prevented them from serving alongside whites. Amid calls to boycott segregated armed forces, Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, requiring integration of the armed forces.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/desegregation-of-armed-forces>

<https://armyhistory.org/executive-order-9981-integration-of-the-armed-forces/>

- **Truman’s decision to use the atomic bomb**

Truman’s decision to use the atomic bomb to end the Second World War is much debated. His decision and the use of this new technology can certainly be considered as breaking a barrier. Both in technology and in the use of such a weapon by a US president. Truman’s own writings at the time, reminded critics of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and he insisted that the bomb saved many American lives.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/decision-to-drop-atomic-bomb?section=1>

- **Truman and the Marshall Plan**

The United States gave \$12 billion in aid to help western European countries recover after the war. This shift in foreign policy to offer aid to help defeated nations recover from war was a ground breaking idea. The policy also led to debate about foreign aid in general which continues today. Critics argued it could be considered “Economic imperialism” and helped start the Cold War. Supporters argued building up broken down economies would benefit everybody. The Marshall Plan is also considered a key catalyst for the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance between North American and European countries established in 1949.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/truman-marshall-plan>

- **Truman and the Berlin Airlift**

The Western Allies organized the Berlin airlift to carry supplies to the people of West Berlin, after Stalin had blockaded the city. Airplanes flew more than 200,000 sorties in one year, providing to the West Berliners up to 12,941 tons of necessities in a day, such as fuel and food. The Soviets did not disrupt the airlift for fear this might lead to open conflict. This momentous humanitarian mission saved a city and overcame numerous logistical challenges. It could certainly be considered as breaking barriers both in technology for pulling off such a feat and also as a humanitarian mission.

<https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/online-collections/berlin-airlift>

Missouri History Topics

- **Charles Lindbergh:** Charles Lindbergh is best known for completing the first nonstop flight across the Atlantic with his plane, the “Spirit of St. Louis.” He assisted in the shaping of the public opinion in favor of the utilization of an aircraft as a viable means of transportation. His wife Anne Morrow Lindbergh was an author and the first licensed female glider pilot in the United States. Her notable works include a plethora of books, diaries, and letters. She acted as her husband’s co-pilot, navigator, and radio operator and she received numerous awards and recognition for literary and exploratory accomplishments.

<http://lindberghfoundation.org/lindbergh-history>

- **Mark Twain:** Samuel Clemens, better known by his pen name Mark Twain, used his position as an author to attack tragedies such as slavery/failed attempts at reconstruction following the Civil War, political corruption in the Gilded Age, and imperialism. Throughout his writing career, Twain also invested much of his money into new inventions, which failed, leaving him in near financial ruin. Ultimately, Twain’s criticism of the US government caused many Americans to denounce him, severely damaging his reputation. Twain’s works, however, over time are insightful into key issues during the rapidly changing political and social climate for the late 19th century.

<https://marktwainhouse.org/about/mark-twain/biography/>

- **Lemma Barkeloo & Phoebe Couzins:** Lemma Barkeloo and Phoebe Couzins became the first female law students in the United States. Shortly after the two entered law school at Washington University, the Supreme Court ruled against the Illinois woman’s request to apply to practice law, citing the separate spheres of women (domestic) and men (public) in *Bradwell v. Illinois*. Unwilling to give up following this decision, Barkeloo triumphed in becoming the first female to try a case in federal court in the United States, overcoming social barriers by entering the nearly exclusively male field of law. Couzins, on the other hand, continued to be active in both women’s suffrage and temperance movements. Cousins also went on to become the US’s first female law school graduate and first female US Marshal.

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/c/couzins/>
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/timeline/timeline7>

- **Edwin Hubble:** Edwin Hubble was a prominent twentieth century astronomer, born in Marshfield, Missouri, who is best known for his work regarding galaxies. Hubble advocated for the notion that many galaxies exist beyond our own and he proved that many objects previously thought to be nebulae were, in fact other galaxies. He also created the Hubble tuning fork diagram, which can be utilized in the classification of galaxies. His work took place during and between WWI and WWII, but he did not let the barrier of grief impact his research. Hubble also promoted the theory that the universe expands uniformly.
https://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/archive/hubble/overview/hubble_bio.html
- **Susan Elizabeth Blow:** Attempting to spread the benefits of an early education, Blow created the US's first public kindergarten in St. Louis (1873). Kindergartens soon spread through St. Louis, becoming an example for US cities hoping to adopt this form of education the future. Blow's efforts to teach not only young students, but also their instructors, led to triumph for education through the widespread adoption of kindergartens by the United States.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/blow/>
- **The Pony Express:** created by William Russell, William Waddell, and Alexander Majors, the Pony Express allowed for communication across the United States (with routes beginning in St. Joseph and ending in Sacramento, CA). although this system of communication become unnecessary as soon as 1861, with the expansion of telegraph lines, this network of horse riding postmen represents a triumph for American communication.
<http://ponyexpress.org/about/>
- **Mary Gant:** The first women elected to the Missouri Senate, Mary Gant forged a path for women in government. Gant's legacy is of a controversial nature to many women's rights advocates. This is mainly the case because Gant refused to support the Equal Rights Amendment, as she believed that the issues such an amendment to the Constitution would concern were already being addressed by the laws in place. Despite her objections to the proposed amendment, Gant championed herself as a feminist. Some of her most notable legislation addressed child- abuse, elder abuse, the rape shield law, and female judge and appointees.
<https://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/resources/findingaids/lp/552-17.pdf>
- **The Geyer Act and Public Education in Missouri:** Based upon Thomas Jefferson's plans for the establishment of public education systems in Virginia, the Geyer Act, introduced by James Rollins and Written by Henry Geyer, established Missouri public schools as well as the University of Missouri, impracticalities within this act sparked

questions surrounding the proper implementation of public schools systems, forcing lawmakers to revoke the majority of this act in 1841. The Geyer Act, nonetheless, largely shaped current Missouri public education systems.

<https://muarchives.missouri.edu/search.html?q=geyer+act+#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=geyer%20act%20&gsc.page=1>

- **State Hospital No. 1 (Fulton Missouri):** This hospital, opened in 1851, served as the first public mental institution west of the Mississippi river. Early methods of treatment (spinning individuals around in chairs, pouring high pressure water on to their skin) developed into more modern approaches focused on treatment rather than immediate prevention of harm, and were eventually paired with recreational therapy, serving as a triumph for patients.
<https://dmh.mo.gov/fulton/history.html>
- **Mary Paxton Keeley: trailblazer for women in journalism:** The early twentieth century was a time full of hardship for women in fields outside the home. However, pioneers such as Mary Paxton Keeley made the way easier for future female students in the journalism industry, seeing as she was the first woman to graduate from the University of Missouri, School of Journalism and would later work for the Kansas City Post.
<https://www.trumanlibrary.org/hstpapeer/keeley.htm>
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/k/keeley/>
- **George Glore:** In 1968 an employee of St. Joseph State Hospital got the idea to create replicas of primitive psychiatric treatments. This man was George Glore, Glore created replicas of treatments from the 17th, 18th, and 19th century for Mental Health Awareness week open house. Hospital officials were so impressed that they took Glore's replicas in order to create the Glore psychiatric museum.
<https://www.stjosephmuseum.org/glore-psychiatric-museum>
- **John William "Blind" Boone:** Boone lived in Warrensburg, Missouri and Columbia. From a young age those around him recognized the musical talent that Boone possessed. With the help of his community his mother was able to send him to school in St. Louis where he was encouraged to learn braille and the broom trade in order to support himself. He was passionate about music and continued to pursue music. Boone could not read sheet music, he learned music by listening very carefully and then practiced until he could replicate it perfectly. Boone became a household name when he teamed up with John Lange Jr. Boones musical compositions are thought to be what inspired the development of ragtime music.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/blindboone/>
- **Omar Nelson Bradley:** Bradley was born in 1893 near Clark, Randolph County, Missouri. After high school Bradley wished to attend the University of Missouri, but his

Sunday School superintendent suggested that Bradley should apply to the United States Military Academy (West Point). In 1911, Bradley took the military exam and received the region's top score earning him a spot at the academy. In his class at West Point he ranked 44 out of 164. During World War I, Bradley did not see combat but worked in copper mines then later attended army advanced training schools. By the 1940s Bradley was named the commander of infantry school at Fort Benning. After World War II, Bradley was asked by President Truman to lead the Veterans Administration. In 1948, he was asked to be chief of staff making him the highest ranking soldier in the army. The following year Bradley became the first ever chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Congress appointed him General of the Army with five stars.

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/bradley/>

- **Margaret Tobin Brown:** Margaret Brown is remembered for her courage, social activism, and generosity to others. Brown supported numerous charities and was especially fond of helping women and children. Her favorite cause was Denver's juvenile Association for the Protection and Betterment of Children. Brown also loved to travel so in 1912 when she heard that her grandson was ill she booked a ticket on the RMS Titanic which struck an iceberg causing it to sink. When Brown and the other passengers were rescued by the RMS Carpathia she helped organize relief efforts. Brown donated her summer house to the Red Cross during World War I. Brown went to France to serve as director for the American Committee for Devastated France. She was awarded the French Legion of Honor.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/brownmt/>
- **Clarence Earl Gideon:** Clarence Gideon of Hannibal, Missouri was a criminal who helped change the legal system. Gideon was arrested for running away from home but he escaped jail, however, it was the middle of winter so he stole some clothes and was arrested again. He said that the Missouri State Reformatory for Boys was the worst prison he had ever been to. In 1928 he was convicted of robbery, burglary, and larceny which got him sentenced for 10 years in the Missouri State penitentiary. During the Great Depression he committed crimes to make ends meet. In 1961 Gideon was accused of breaking into a pool hall during his trial he had to defend himself because the court refused to provide him a lawyer. Gideon appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court after his conviction stating his constitutional right was violated. The court sided with him and they gave him a retrial.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/g/gideon/>
- **Robert Calvin Hubbard:** Cal Hubbard loved football so when he could not attend West Point because of his flat feet he looked for a college that had a promising football program. He chose to attend Chillicothe Business College. In 1922 Hubbard was offered an invitation to Centenary College by Alvin "Bo" McMillan. Hubbard accepted and was the star player from 1922-1924. In 1928, Hubbard started umpiring minor league baseball games. After an eye injury ended his umpire career the American league hired him as

assistant supervisor of umpires he held that position until 1969. Hubbard is the only man to be named in college and pro football hall of fame, as well as the baseball hall of fame. He remains the only man inducted into three major sports halls of fame.

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/h/hubbard/>

- **Mary Margaret McBride:** Mary McBride was born in Paris, Missouri in 1899. In order to pay her way through school Mary got a part time job at the local newspaper the Paris Mercury. By 1918, Mary got a journalism degree from the University of Missouri. In 1934 Mary was hired for a women's program on WOR. Mary's career is an important milestone for talk radio as well as television personalities. She was known as "The First Lady of Radio."

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/m/mcbride/>

- **Howard A. Rusk:** Howard Rusk was born in Brookfield, Missouri. Rusk by the time he was eleven years old became interested in medicine, so a local physician allowed Rusk to serve as an assistant. Rusk attended the University of Missouri where he worked two jobs in order to pay for school because of the Great Depression. When Rusk joined Phi Delta Theta his interest in helping the disabled peaked. By 1923, Rusk earned his bachelor's degree and then a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine. The early years of his career was spent teaching. Rusk joined the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was appointed chief of medical services. After seeing wounded service men lay around unable to join back in the fight he developed a rehabilitative program that emphasized physical therapy, mental health, and vocational training. After the war, Rusk established a training program at the New York University school of Medicine and a rehabilitation program at Bellevue hospital in New York City. Because of Dr. Rusk's work he gave those who were afflicted with physical challenges hope with rehabilitative medicine.

<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/r/rusk/>

- **T.S. Eliot:** St Louis native T.S. Eliot was a famous poet whose work in modernism shaped 20th century literature. The majority of his poems captured characters suffering a tragedy: they were powerless figures, lacked belonging, and were unable to escape the pain of their conditions- all themes which likely capture Eliot's own emotions as he struggled to find belonging in a life split between Missouri (where his home and family resided) and Massachusetts (where he attended college). Such themes are also reflective of the contrast between Eliot's family (pious Unitarians) and Eliot's own personal beliefs (which defied his family's moral values).

<https://shsmo.org?historicmissourians/name/e/eliot/>

http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/eliot/life.htm

Kansas City History Topics

- **Lucile Bluford:** A journalist and civil rights advocate, Lucile Bluford grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. One of her most well-known struggles occurred because the University of Missouri refused to accept her into its graduate journalism program. After several lawsuits and appeals, the Missouri Supreme Court finally ruled in Bluford's favor; however, the University of Missouri ultimately closed the program. Bluford's fight for equality continued and her powerful writing helped shape the movement as a whole. In 1989, the University of Missouri presented her with an honorary degree.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/b/bluford/>
- **Kate Richards O' Hare:** O'Hare was considered an activist, reformer, and socialist. Her goal was to improve the lives of those in the working class through advocacy and reform. After violating the Espionage Act, O'Hare was sentenced to five years in prison which she served at the Missouri State penitentiary. After serving time she became an outspoken critic of the American Prison system, and called for better conditions for inmates.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/o/ohare/>
- **Satchel Paige:** Satchel Paige is recognized as one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history. Paige helped breakdown the racial barriers in professional sports. His speed skill and showmanship made him a baseball hero. Paige first pitched in the Negro leagues, but then joined the major league in 1948. By 1971 Paige became the first player from the Negro leagues elected to the National Baseball Hall of fame.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/p/paige/>
- **Nell Donnelly Reed:** Nell Donnelly Reed was born in Parsons, Kansas but after graduating high school she moved to Kansas City where she became a prominent women in fashion. Reed's fashion was not only stylish but affordable as well; so much so that her company survived the Great Depression. Reed ensured that her employees were happy at work by providing a pension plan, establishing an onsite medical center, and cafeteria. Reed died in 1991 but she helped set a standard for stylish, affordable women's clothing.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/r/reed/>
- **Charlie "Bird" Parker:** Charlie Parker lived a short life, but regardless of that he became a founder of bebop style jazz. Parker got into a car accident which is when he got addicted to both the saxophone and heroine. These addictions would both make him highly successful and unstable. Parker had married his high school sweet heart but with his struggles he became abusive and left home for New York. Even though people liked his music Parker was unreliable and mentally unstable which made it difficult to work with him. Parker died at the age of 34 and has been given several posthumous awards for his contributions to music.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/p/parker/>

- **Robert A. Heinlein:** Robert Heinlein was born in Butler, Missouri but when he was little his family relocated to Kansas City. Robert from a very young age loved reading books particularly about astronomy and space flight. He managed to read every science fiction book available at the Kansas City Public Library. In high school Robert was part of two science clubs and ROTC. He joined ROTC because he wanted to pursue a career in the military. In 1925 Robert was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy. Robert served on the USS Lexington but was medically discharged in 1934. After failing at his other career choices Robert started writing science fiction stories which eventually became widely popular. Robert died in 1988 but left his mark on modern science fiction.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/h/heinlein/>
- **Thomas Theodore Crittenden:** Thomas Crittenden is best known for the man who brought the James brothers to justice. By the time Crittenden took position of Governor, Jesse James and his gang made Missouri look like a state of unlawfulness. Crittenden wanted to put a stop to the outlaw activity and restore Missouri's reputation. He implemented a plan that offered a substantial reward to whoever could capture the James brothers. In 1882 Robert Ford killed Jesse James and was found guilty of murder but Crittenden pardoned him. Frank James surrendered and Crittenden was praised for ending the reign of terror by Jesse James.
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/c/crittenden/>

Kansas History Topics

- **Brown v. Board of Education:** Brown v. Board's ruled that segregation of schools was unconstitutional, abolishing the previous "separate- but- equal" doctrine in place since Plessy v. Ferguson. The Supreme Court ordered public schools to integrate with "all deliberate speed." Consider how the court's decision is breaking through a barrier.
<https://www.nps.gov/brvb/learn/historyculture/index.htm>
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-brown.html>
- **Eisenhower and the Civil Rights Act of 1957:** This act served as the first post-reconstruction piece of Civil Rights legislation; it allowed federal prosecutors to obtain court orders prohibiting individuals from restricting African Americans' right to vote. Think about how Eisenhower broke through a barrier with this act.
https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents/civil_rights_act.html
- **Amelia Earhart:** Amelia Earhart was born in 1897 in Atchison, Kansas. Earhart became a pilot and went on to receive recognition for her flight skills, literary works, and her founding of organizations, such as The Ninety- Nines. Earhart was often "the first" to accomplish many feats. Her flights were unprecedented and she served as an example for pilots everywhere. Consider how Earhart broke barriers in the field of flight.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/search/?q=amelia+earhart>

- **Clyde Cessna:** In January of 1925 Clyde Cessna joined forces with Lloyd Stearman, Walter Beech, and later Olive Ann Mellor to open Travel Air Manufacturing Company. Cessna eventually decided to part ways with the company in order to pursue his own plane designs he opened his own company in Wichita called: Cessna Aircraft Corporation which produced one of the top planes in history that is still being used today the Cessna 172. Taking in account that Cessna's plane and company are still in operation today helps show that Cessna broke through not only an aviation barrier but a business barrier as well.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/cessna-aircraft-company/16743>
- **Lewis and Clark expedition:** Thomas Jefferson in 1803 asked for funding for an expedition from the Missouri River to the Pacific Northwest. Jefferson tasked Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to lead the Corps of Discovery. The goal was to find a water route to the Pacific Ocean. Lewis and Clark started in 1803 and would not arrive back in Missouri until 1806. Lewis and Clark went through areas that would eventually become states and they documented everything from rivers to flora and fauna. Consider the discoveries they made on their journey and how they pushed through the barrier of the unknown by traveling into strange lands.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/lewis-and-clark-in-kansas/12129>
- **Robert Ballard:** Robert Ballard was born in Wichita Kansas. Dr. Ballard is best known for his historic discoveries of hydrothermal vents, the sunken R.M.S titanic and the German Battleship the Bismarck. Dr. Ballard is a pioneer in his field. He has worked on the development of advanced deep submergence and telepresence technology.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-Ballard-American-oceanographer>
<https://nautiluslive.org/people/robert-ballard>
- **Gwendolyn Brooks:** Gwendolyn was born in Topeka, Kansas. Brooks was one of the most highly regarded, influential and widely read poets of the 20th century. She is the first black woman to be granted the Pulitzer Prize. Brooks also was the first black women to hold the position of poetry consultant in the Library of Congress.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/gwendolyn-brooks>
- **George Francis Train:** Train worked as an avid supporter of women's suffrage. He went to Kansas to support the woman suffrage cause alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. While on tour through Kansas, Train compiled a pamphlet outlining what the tour was about so that other people could be informed. Anthony and Stanton gave Train the credit of swaying the democrats to woman suffrage.

<http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/bai/holland.htm>
<https://www.kansasmemory.org/item/206263>

- **Eli Thayer:** Eli Thayer lived in Massachusetts and had a plan on how to prevent Kansas from becoming a slave state. The belief was that the people of Missouri would move into Kansas in order to tip the scales, but Thayer believed he knew how he could prevent this from happening. He believed that if enough antislavery supporters were to move to Kansas then they would be able to win the vote and Kansas would be a free state. A month before the Kansas Nebraska Act became a law Thayer along with other New England businessmen incorporated the New England Emigrant Aid Company. The goals of the NEEAC were profit as well politically driven. The company wanted the ability to secure low cost transportation for emigrants, and provide temporary housing for settlers once they reached the Kansas territory.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/new-england-emigrant-aid-company-sign/10231>
- **Nancy Landon Kassebaum:** Nancy Kassebaum was the first women to represent Kansas in the U.S. Senate. She studied political science at the University of Kansas and diplomatic history at the University of Michigan. Kassebaum served on the Kansas Governmental Ethics commission, Kansas committee on the humanities, and the school board in Maize Kansas. At the time of her election in 1978 she was the only women in the Senate. She supported the Equal Rights Amendment and she worked toward ending apartheid in South Africa.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nancy-Landon-Kassebaum>
- **Clarina Nichols:** Nichols was born in 1810. Throughout her life Nichols was involved in temperance, abolition, and suffrage movements. When Nichols joined the New England Emigrant Aid Society she and her family moved near Lawrence Kansas. After her husband died she Wyandotte County where she became an associate editor for the Quindaro Chindowan which was an abolitionist newspaper. Nichols traveled throughout Kansas giving lectures about equality and gathering signatures for petitions. By 1859 she had gathered enough support that the delegates gave her a voice at the Wyandotte convention. The final version of the Wyandotte constitution reflected Nichols influence it included things she has been fighting for: women's rights in child custody and property and equality in matters pertaining to public schools. The advancement towards women's rights was slow but thanks to Nichols there was advancement.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/clarina-nichols/12156>
- **Lilla Day Monroe:** Monroe moved to Kansas in 1884 where she married her husband Lee who was an attorney. Monroe was interested in law, so she worked as a clerk in her husband's law office and studied law at home. In 1894, after passing the bar exam she was granted the right to practice law in the district court, and then in 1895 she practiced law in the Kansas Supreme Court. In 1902 after moving to Topeka she became in active member in a number of causes: Kansas State Suffrage Association and the good government club. Monroe was also involved in journalism. She established The Club Woman and The Kansas Woman's Journal. She was an active member in the Women's Press Association, the State federation of Clubs, the Business and Professional Women's

club, and the National League of American Pen Women. Monroe created a reminiscence project that involved women sharing stories about how they helped settle Kansas. Although Monroe died before she could finish the project her daughter and granddaughter made sure to finish and publish it to help show that Kansas was not just settled by men.

<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/lilla-day-monroe/12150>

- **Minnie J. Grinstead:** Minnie Grinstead was born in 1869 and was teaching by the time she was seventeen years old. She earned a life teaching certificate from Kansas State Normal School of Emporia. In 1896 Grinstead was the Republican candidate for Crawford County superintendent of public instruction but lost. She quit her teaching job in order to be a lecturer for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She was appointed State evangelist by the organization. She campaigned for prohibition and women suffrage earning the Republican nomination for the United States Senate. She became the first woman in the legislature when she was elected in 1918. She was reelected in 1920 and 1922. In 1921 she served on the judiciary committee. In 1921 and 1922 she served on the first state school code commission. After her husband died in 1924 she decided not to run for the house again. She died in 1925. She was being considered for the post of United States civil service commissioner.
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/minnie-j-grinstead/11734>
- **Eisenhower and the Federal Highway Act of 1956:** Being stationed in Germany amid WWII gave Eisenhower the opportunity to examine German road systems, before hoping for such a system for his own country. Partly in order to allow for faster transcontinental travel and elimination of poor roads, and partly to lessen the tragedy that would be endured amid an atomic attack by allowing for faster evacuation of targeted cities, Eisenhower deemed the creation of a federal interstate highway system an absolute necessity. This act would be fulfilled through Eisenhower's 1956 Interstate Highway Act. The creation of roads allowed for the advancement in American interconnection.
https://www.army.mil/article/19805/dwight_d_eisenhower_and_the_birth_of_the_interstate_highway_system
<https://www.history.com/topics/interstate-highway-system>
- **William Allen White:** White rose to prominence after using the influence of his press to attack the Populist Party. White continued to champion the freedom of speech. As publications helped White rise to state recognition, he decided to attempt to influence affairs of Kansas in a manner separate from the press: he ran for governor on a platform founded upon opposition to the KKK. Though he lost the election White's exposal of tragedies caused by the KKK would continue to have an influence, eventually causing Kansas to be the first state to outlaw the Klan.
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/william-allen-white/16139>
<https://www2.ku.edu/~jschool/school/waw/WAWhitebio.html>

- **Hattie McDaniel:** Hattie was born in post reconstruction Kansas to two former slaves. After moving to Colorado and graduating high school, she began to perform dramatic recitations of poetry. When not serving as a nightclub maid, she took to the stage to perform. Though forced to deal with challenges to opportunity posed by segregated US, McDaniel's talent was recognized: she became the first African American to win an Oscar for her role in *Gone With the wind*. McDaniel's success in this film served as more than a personal triumph- her efforts began to change overwhelming views of the ability of African American actors for the better.
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/hattie-mcdaniel/12146>
- **Carrie Nation:** Carry Nation was a famous leader and activist before women could vote in America. She believed that drunkenness was the cause of many problems in society. Nation fought with fierce and witty words to make her case that people should not drink alcohol or use tobacco. She gained national attention when she started using violence. Though she was beaten and jailed many times for "smashing" saloons, Carry Nation remained opposed to drinking and smoking throughout her life. Her crusade against drinking contributed to the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment.
<https://www.kshs.org/kansapedia/carry-a-nation/15502>
<https://shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/n/nation/>