

## More Reviews of Kansas Notable Books

Reviewed by Mike Haddock, Kansas State University Libraries

*John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History*

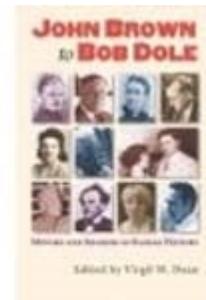
Edited by Virgil Dean  
University Press of Kansas

For this book, Kansas historian Virgil Dean assembled a team of distinguished contributors to create biographical essays of twenty-seven notable Kansans. The men and women highlighted in each chapter are personalities who have had a significant impact on Kansas and the nation. They include leaders and politicians such as Dwight Eisenhower, Bob Dole and Alf Landon; social reformers like Clarina Nichols, Esther Brown, Kate Richards O'Hare and Mary Elizabeth Lease; agriculture pioneers Joseph McCoy, Theodore Henry, and Wes Jackson; artists Gordon Parks and John Steuart Curry; publishers William Allen White and Emanuel and Marcet Haldeman-Julius; entrepreneurs such as R.H. Garvey in oil and grain storage and Frederick Harvey in food service; public health advocate Samuel Crumbine; and passionate "agitators" such as John Brown, William Russell and Gerald Winrod.

The individuals covered in this book have shaped the character of our state both positively and, in some cases, negatively. Some are quite prominent and known far outside the borders of Kansas, while others are somewhat obscure but no less fascinating. The biographical essays themselves are highly readable and very informative. This title should be a standard work in Kansas school and public libraries and is recommended for general readers as well as those interested in history and biographies.

*Ballots and Bullets: The Bloody County Seat Wars of Kansas*

by Robert K. DeArment  
University of Oklahoma Press



*Ballots and Bullets* is a fascinating account of the passionate, and often highly violent, conflicts that erupted as infant communities in western Kansas vied for the title of county seat. The communities that succeeded in their efforts to be named county seat prospered, while those that failed withered into ghost towns. The book focuses on the years 1885-1892, the tumultuous period when these conflicts occurred. At the time, these incidents made national headlines and, in some cases, required the Governor of Kansas to send in troops to quell the disturbances.

Notorious figures such as Bill Tilghman, Bat Masterson, Sam Wood, and Theodosius Botkin played roles in these bitter confrontations. Disputes in five western Kansas counties are highlighted: Ulysses vs. Appomotox in Grant County; Ingalls vs. Cimarron in Gray County; Leoti vs. Coronado in Wichita County; Hugoton vs. Woodsdale in Stevens County; and Fargo Springs vs. Springfield in Seward County. The events portrayed in this book could come straight from a Hollywood film, but they are quite real. *Ballots and Bullets* offers a highly readable and historically accurate account of these little-known episodes. It will be of interest to anyone who enjoys the history of the West.

