

Editor's Corner

The articles in this issue of *Heritage of the Great Plains* are adapted from oral presentations at a public meeting held on 18 April 2009 at the Kansas History Center in Topeka. The occasion of this meeting, which coincided with the opening of a traveling exhibition of photographs taken by itinerant Great Plains photographer F. M. Steele, was a presentation of papers on Steele's life and work, placing his work in the context of the philosophy of photography, examining the artistry of his lens, and considering his invaluable contribution to documenting life in the southwestern plains during the transition from open-range cattle ranching to crop agriculture.

I wish to thank the other presenters for their excellent papers: John Carter, curator of the Solomon Butcher Collection at the Nebraska State Historical Society; Larry Schwarm, nationally recognized landscape photographer and a member of the Emporia State University Department of Art; and Tom Rankin, director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. I also want to thank the Clark, Finney, Haskell, and Seward county historical societies for sharing their sizeable holdings of Steele photographs with us, Dave Webb of the Kansas Heritage Center for providing access to his file of Steele documents, the Kansas Historical Society for partnering with us in this project, Nancy Sherbert for her assistance in digitizing the collection and in making arrangements for the meeting, and Susan Brinkman for her many efforts in making this project a success. Finally, I want to thank the Kansas Humanities Council for the financial support that has made this project possible.

Jim Hoy, Director
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Steele photographs can be viewed on the Kansas Memory website <http://www.kansasmemory.org/locate.php?query=Steele&restrict=all> and at the CGPS Plains Photo Project website <http://www.emporia.edu/cgps/EmporiaStateUniversity-CenterforGreatPlainsStudiessteele1.htm>