

**KANSAS WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE (KWWICC) MEETING  
FEBRUARY 17, 2016  
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (KSHS)  
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, 1:30 PM  
MEETING NOTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Mary Madden, Director, Kansas Museum of History, Kansas Historical Society, Chairperson
- Blair Tarr, Curator, Kansas Museum of History, Kansas Historical Society
- Patrick Zollner, Director, Cultural Resources Division, Kansas Historical Society
- Matt Veatch, State Archivist, Kansas Historical Society
- Adrienne Landry, Education Program Manager, American College of Medical Toxicology
- Sergeant First Class Jeremy Byers, Command Historian, Public Affairs Office, Kansas Adjutant General's Department
- Tom Jorsch, Assistant Professor of History, Bethany College
- Murl Riedel, Director of Grants, Kansas Humanities Council
- Rebecca Schulte, University Archivist, University of Kansas
- John Daley, Professor of History, Pittsburg State University
- James Patton, Volunteer, United States World War I Centennial Commission
- Dennis Cross, Volunteer, National World War I Museum
- George Thompson, Adjunct Associate Professor, Historian, History and Philosophy of Medicine, The University of Kansas Medical Center
- Greg Burden, Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Madden welcomed members to the third meeting of the KWWICC. At her request, each attendee introduced themselves.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2015, meeting as submitted. Ms. Landry seconded and the committee approved the motion unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Madden noted that a design had been selected for the National WWI Memorial in Pershing Park in Washington, D.C. Mr. Patton observed that the National WWI Committee would be raising funds for construction of the memorial.

## KANSAS WWI CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE WEBSITE

Ms. Landry reported on her efforts to integrate the Kansas website with the National WWI Committee's website. The national committee is in the process of revising their website, which has created some challenges. She suggested that the Kansas WWICC revert to its original plan for its KU-hosted website: <http://www.kansasww1.org/>. She suggested that when the national website is redeployed, she will then attempt to display the KWICC website in an "iframe" on the national site. Unfortunately, the Kansas committee's website calendar will not synchronize with the national website. Ms. Landry asked for the committee's guidance on whether to revert to the events list format she developed for the initial version of the Kansas committee's website. Committee members agreed with Ms. Landry's suggestion on that events be presented in list rather than calendar format.

Ms. Landry reported that she is no longer working for the KU Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies. She has taken a position as Education Program Manager for the American College of Medical Toxicology. Fortunately, she is willing and able to continue to serve on the KWICC and administer the website as a volunteer. She also has made arrangements for KU to continue to host the website.

Ms. Landry encouraged committee members who are interested in contributing content to the website to begin blogging. Several committee members expressed their intent to submit content. Ms. Landry provided a brief demonstration and tutorial on the logistics of adding content to the website. She noted that new blog posts will automatically be included on the @KansasWw1 Twitter feed. Once the website has some content, Ms. Landry suggested that committee members begin promoting the website.

Mr. Patton asked whether blog posts needed to be about Kansas. He noted that many of his previous blog postings were not Kansas-specific. Ms. Landry suggested and committee members agreed that it would be appropriate to include the non-Kansas content as long as the blogger is a Kansan or has close ties to Kansas.

Ms. Landry asked whether committee members were satisfied with the website About page. The group agreed that the About page should include the KWICC's mission, goals, and an editorial statement. Ms. Landry will work with Ms. Madden to add the mission and goals to the About page. Mr. Patton suggested revising the editorial statement to state that the website would be used for "educational and non-commercial purposes." Committee members agreed and Ms. Landry made the revision on the website.

## NEW BUSINESS

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### COMMITTEE MEMBER ACTIVITIES

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### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – STATE ARCHIVES DIVISION

Mr. Veatch reported on a series of planned WWI-themed mini-exhibits in the KSHS research room over the next three years, blog postings on the topics highlighted in the mini-exhibits, and efforts to provide WWI-related newspaper articles to Kansas teachers.

#### NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM

Mr. Cross encouraged committee members to visit the [National WWI Museum's website](#) to see the full range of activities planned for the centennial. Ms. Landry commented that their annual symposium in November 2015 was outstanding – 175 attendees with speakers from around the country.

#### HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. Thompson highlighted an upcoming symposium on [The Impact of World War I on the Nursing Profession](#) that the KU School of Nursing organized in collaboration with the National WWI Museum. It will be held on February 20, 2016, and they have 800 people registered for the symposium. They are offering Continuing Nursing Education credits for the symposium, but that only accounts for half of the registered attendees. Mr. Thompson noted that this illustrates deep interest in the impact of WWI on medicine.

#### PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Daley reported that he would be offering a seminar on WWI.

#### KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. Burton, who was attending his first KWIICC meeting, indicated he would investigate what the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs has in their archives. The Kansas Soldiers Home at Fort Dodge could be of particular interest. He also noted as a point of interest that a Kansan, Lt. Erwin R. Bleckley was one of the first American pilots killed in WWI and a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

#### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS – UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Ms. Schulte reported on several WWI-related collections at Spencer Research Library. She noted that she will be working with history students to encourage them to use these collections and perhaps prepare blog posts on them for the KWICC website. She also reported on activities of the KU WWI Commemoration Committee, which focus on the Eastern Front.

#### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Ms. Madden reported that the exhibit *Captured: The Extraordinary Adventures of Colonel Hughes* will open on May 27, 2016. She noted that the exhibit centers on native Kansan Col. James C. Hughes' activities in the Mexican Expedition (1916), WWI, and WWII. The exhibit features photographs Hughes took during his time in Europe in 1918-19, and a diary and artifacts from Hughes' Japanese prisoner of war experiences.

#### KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL (KHC)

Mr. Riedel highlighted a Canton, Kansas project to digitize WWI stereographs – funded through the Southeast Kansas Library System, not KHC – but an example of the type of project KHC is interested in

funding. He noted that KHC offers speakers on WWI through their [Speakers Bureau](#). Mr. Riedel also commented on a potential project with the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Overland Park (formerly of Kansas City, KS) to translate, transcribe, and digitize selected church records, many of which are from the period immediately after the 1917 Russian Revolution.

#### KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Byers reported that he will be teaching a WWI course at Washburn in the fall. He also noted that exhibits at the [Kansas National Guard Museum](#) will be WWI-themed over the next two years.

#### BETHANY COLLEGE

Dr. Jorsch hopes to have students in his courses research Lindsborg's experiences during the WWI. He intends to blog about the experience of teaching the course.

#### KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY – CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Mr. Zollner reported that he and his staff continue work on project to add WWI monument filtering to [Kansas Historic Resources Inventory](#) online database.

#### NATIONAL WWI COMMITTEE

Mr. Patton described the potential to co-brand products in collaboration with the national committee. Kansas committee members had no objections to the idea, and Mr. Patton will explore the concept further.

#### UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Ms. Landry commented on a KU [project to digitize WWI poetry](#) and highlighted [upcoming lectures](#) at KU related to the Eastern Front in WWI.

#### NEXT MEETING

The committee will meet again on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 1:30pm at the Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Matt Veatch.