

Indianola, Butler County, Kansas 2nd edition

This book began as a simple paragraph trying to define the history of Indianola where John Waters lived. Unfortunately there was no written history to go to, and few sources of knowledge for this microcosm of American frontier life.

Slowly bits and pieces fell together and the first edition represented all we learned about the community. We were sure that more stories and pieces exist in scrapbooks and memories of the former students there, but knew that finding them would take years. But it took only 1 week. Elizabeth Snodgrass gave us access to Flora Harper's 1000 pages of handwritten history of Indianola experiences, collected and recorded over 60 years, once she heard of the Indianola effort. This second edition is the result of that collection of history woven into the work of the first edition.

While Flora died in the 1960's much of this edition is her words, her memories, or from her records, so she is a co-author. It is a shame that she never got to see it printed and distributed and talked about. But she would be pleased that her relatives preserved what was a life's work for her - the memories of an entire community.

This work includes 100 photographs and maps, 22 chapters, 433 pages of material, and an extensive index of almost every citizen of the Indianola community over 60-80 years. It is a true picture of the life in a farm community that had no stores, but was an active center for all ages.

