



**FRANKLIN COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
OTTAWA, KANSAS

PO BOX 145, OTTAWA, KANSAS, 66067  
(785) 242-1232  
[WWW.OLDDEPOTMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.OLDDEPOTMUSEUM.ORG)  
[WWW.FRANKLINCOKSHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.FRANKLINCOKSHISTORY.ORG)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 10, 2016**

**Kansas water topic at 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Historical Society Meeting**

Ottawa, Kansas—"Water in Kansas: Past and Present" will be the topic of Rex Buchanan's presentation and discussion during the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Members of the Franklin County Historical Society on Sunday, January 22, 2 p.m. at Neosho County Community College in Ottawa, Kansas.

Early evidence of Native peoples in Kansas show that they lived near springs, seeps, and rivers. Later, European settlers moved along water sources, and even today demographic changes are the result of water availability. Recently, the Kansas state government developed a 50-year water planning vision focused on reservoir sedimentation and the rapid drawdown of the Ogallala Aquifer. Buchanan's presentation will highlight how water issues today define much about Kansans in the future, just as they always have.

Rex Buchanan grew up in Rice County, Kansas, on the edge of the Smoky Hills. He is the interim director emeritus of the Kansas Geological Society and the author of books about Kansas geology and water.

Buchanan's presentation launches a series of programs offered in conjunction with the Old Depot Museum's upcoming summer exhibit, *Crossings: Getting Over, Around, and Through Water in Franklin County*, which is made possible thanks in part to a *Water/Ways* partner site grant from the Kansas Humanities Council. Support for the *Water/Ways* initiative has been provided by the Sunflower Foundation.

The January 22 program will begin at 2 p.m. with a short review of the exhibits, events, and activities of 2016 and a preview of 2017, followed by Rex Buchanan's presentation on water in Kansas. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to this free event, which will be held at Neosho County Community College, 900 East Logan Street, Ottawa, Kansas. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be rescheduled for Sunday, February 5, at 2 p.m. at NCCC. For more information, contact the Franklin County Historical Society at (785) 242-1232 or the Old Depot Museum at (785) 242-1250, or e-mail [manager@olddepotmuseum.org](mailto:manager@olddepotmuseum.org).

Founded in 1937, the Franklin County Historical Society strives to preserve, present, and promote the history of Franklin County, Kansas. For more information, visit [www.olddepotmuseum.org](http://www.olddepotmuseum.org).

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