

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[DATE] [Insert your information here:

Local Project Director, Title and Organization

Phone Number and Email

Website]

**Presentation Explores Early Irrigation Crusade**

**[Community Name] –** [Organization Name] in [Community Name] will host “The Irrigation Crusade,” a presentation and discussion by James Sherow on [Date] at [Time] at [Location and Address of Presentation]. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the [Host Organization Name] at [Phone Number] for more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas.

[List any details about local event here]

From the 1880s to the earliest days of the 20th century, the “Irrigation Crusade” was promoted as a way for grassland farmers and community boosters to continue thriving during droughts. The presentation will focus on colorful Kansas frontiersman Charles “Buffalo” Jones and how he led the crusade in western Kansas by organizing water diversion projects to land in and around Garden City.

James Sherow teaches Kansas and environmental history at Kansas State University. He has authored books and articles about people living in the region, including *The Grasslands of the United States: An Environmental History*, and John Charlton’s and his award winning *Railroad Empire Across the Heartland: Rephotographing Alexander Gardner’s Westward Journey*.

“Waging an ‘Irrigation Crusade’ implied nothing less than a holy endeavor to transform what at the time many Americans saw as a heathen, wild landscape into cooperative, civilized, Christian communities and productive farms,” explained Sherow. “The question is: does the legacy bear out the results of the conquest?”

“The Irrigation Crusade” is part of Humanities Kansas's *Movement of Ideas* Speakers Bureau, featuring presentations and workshops designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform, and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement.

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For more information about “The Irrigation Crusade”in[Community] contact the [Host Organization] at [Phone Number] or visit [Website].

**About Humanities Kansas**

Humanities Kansas is an independent nonprofit spearheading a movement of ideas to empower the people of Kansas to strengthen their communities and our democracy. Since 1972, our pioneering programming, grants, and partnerships have documented and shared stories to spark conversations and generate insights. Together with our partners and supporters, we inspire all Kansans to draw on history, literature, ethics, and culture to enrich their lives and serve the communities and state we all proudly call home. Visit humanitieskansas.org.

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