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Stained glass windows tell history of KCK

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of "then and now" articles on places and things of interest in Kansas City, Kan., compiled by area historian Margaret Landis in observance of the 100th birthday of KCK in 1986. Much of the information has appeared in past editions of The Kansan.)

(Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.)

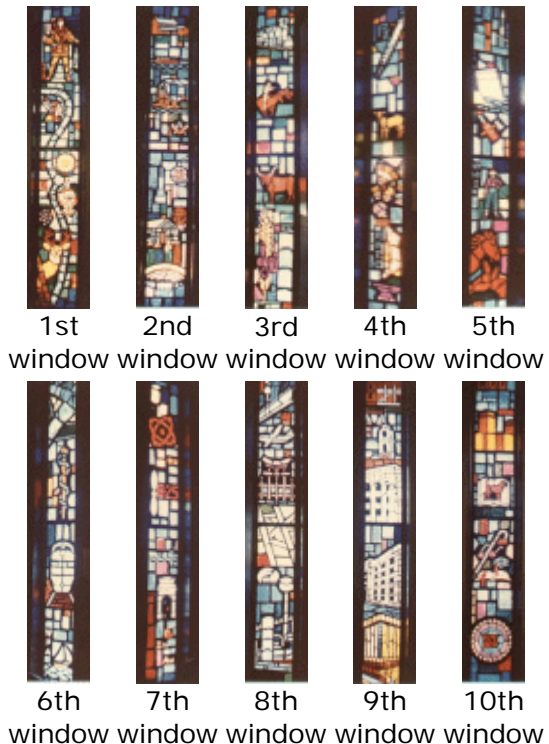
The history of Kansas City, Kan., from Lewis and Clark to the present day can be seen through 10 stained glass windows in city Hall's second floor council chambers.

The windows were designed by Paul Mann in 1971 and manufactured by Hopcroft Stained Glass Co., Kansas city, Mo. Mann completed the designs after a study of city history with former Mayor Joseph H. McDowell's "building a City" his primary source.

Mann, who died in 1983, gave the following descriptions of the windows:

First window: A frontiersman represents the Lewis and Clark expedition which camped here. Light blue lines represent the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. The first settlers here, the Wyandot Indians from Ohio and Delaware, who were here from the beginning, are depicted. Deer, sunflower and fruit suggest the natural bounties of the land 100 years ago.

Second window: The home of Moses Grinter who put the first ferry boat across the river is depicted. The steamboat was the work of Mathias Splitlog, an "Indian millionaire" and mechanical genius. The first Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star Chapter in Kansas were organized here. The tombstone of an Indian, Silas Armstrong, symbolizes the controversial Huron cemetery. The building is the Wyandot Mission Church, still standing in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. It was established by John Stewart, a Negro minister and the first missionary ordained by the Methodist Church, who died in 1823 and is



buried in the church-yard cemetery. When the Wyandot Tribe moved west to Wyandotte County, Kan., the mission -- the body of the church -- was moved entirely to the new location where it continued to grow and prosper. The convention that established Kansas as the 34th state was held here in 1861. The symbol at the bottom is the top part of the Kansas state seal showing the 34 stars.

Third window: Depicted is the old locomotive, the central Pacific, later the Union Pacific, which was the first line in Kansas and the first to reach the pacific. A buffalo hunter represents the Indian wars of the 1880s fought over the loss of the buffalo herds. A longhorn steer represents the beginning of the stockyards industry. A steam tractor and grain elevators represent the wheat industry of the surrounding lands with headquarters here.

Fourth window: A hypodermic needle recalls the discovery and manufacture here of vaccines for flu and meningitis. The calf represents the birth of the baby beef industry, the brain-child of a Kansas City, Kan., Negro grocer, James H. Clayborne. The side of beef and the anvil represent the manufacturing and packinghouse industries. The ROTC was started here by a retired Negro army officer on the faculty of Western University, Maj. N. Clark Smith. The faces represent the major nationalities that formed the work force for the local industries.

Fifth window: At the top is the municipally owned power plant. The first edition of *The Kansan* and the levee with the flood waters it controlled. The bottle and hatchet recall Carry Nation and her activities in dry Kansas. "Rosie the Riveter" represents the influx of women into industry during World War I (Actually, "Rosie the Riveter" came with World War II and the bomber plant. Kansas City, Kan., was the horse and mule capital of the world at that time.

Sixth window: The viaduct system is at the top. The caduceus represents the many hospitals. The locomotive represents the major railroads centered in the city. The Wyandotte County Lake was the result of WPA labor.

Seventh window: The can of food and the atomic symbol represent the industry in the Fairfax District. The airplane propeller stands for the North American Bomber Plant. The landing barge represents the ship building from the two major steel companies. The Arch of Triumph in Rosedale is a duplicate of the one in Paris. It was constructed as a memorial to the men of the Rainbow Division from Rosedale who fought in World War I and was rededicated to veterans of all wars in 1962. The smokestack is the remains of a gold, zinc and copper smelter in the Argentine district.

Eighth window: A steel worker represents the companies here that build bridges and railroads around the world. The bomber that Jimmy Doolittle flew on his famous raid over Tokyo came from Fairfax. Fairfax runways are shown in the middle and at the bottom are some industries in the district.

Ninth window: this shows the building, still standing, in which the first Legislature met and the tower of the first courthouse. The present City Hall and the new City Hall are at the bottom.

Tenth window: At the top is the first free school in the city. Under this is the towers of Wyandotte High School. The public library was the gift of Andrew Carnegie. The books were paid for by a tax on the dogs of the city. The white can and dark glasses represent the school for the blind. The mortarboard cap represents the colleges and the open Bible represents the major seminaries here. Like a stamp of approval, the seal of the city is shown at the bottom.