

1895 8th Grade Exam Salina, Kansas

Due to the continuous questions, emails, phone calls, and letters, Smoky Valley Genealogical Society had decided to place a copy of the 1895 8th Grade Exam on our website. Our society DOES NOT have the answers to the exam.

Many people forget that Kansas is an agricultural state. 8th grade was as far as many children went in school at that time. It was unusual for children to attend either a high school or a normal school because they were needed on the family farms. The names of the children who took the exam and their scores are on file in the Saline County Courthouse. Due to privacy concerns, SVGS has chosen not to publish them. Many descendants of those who took the exam still live in the Saline County area. The descendants of the school superintendent, J.W. Armstrong, were the ones who gave us our copy of the exam.

Times have changed, children have changed, and our world has changed. This test was not put on our website to create controversy. Rather it was put on because it gives us a glimpse back in history at that time. There are other exams in other counties that have been published. Our test seems to have created more interest because it's easily accessible via the internet.