



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

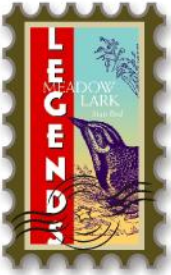
Alfred "Alf" M. Landon (1887-1987)

Alfred Mossman Landon was born in West Middlesex, Pa., and grew up in Ohio. At the age of 17, Landon's family moved to Kansas. He attended the University of Kansas, graduating with a law degree in 1908. Despite his education, he embarked upon a banking career and soon turned into an independent petroleum producer after obtaining his first oil lease in northern Oklahoma.



During the waning months of World War I, Landon enlisted in the United States Army where he served as first lieutenant in the Chemical Warfare Division. He first entered the national political arena in 1912 as chairman of the Progressive Party, campaigning for Theodore Roosevelt for president. Landon continued his political work and was elected 26th governor of Kansas in 1932. As a liberal Republican, Landon had lowered taxes, reorganized government, and lobbied for farm and unemployment relief. He also enacted legislation that required uniform accounting, auditing and record-keeping for the local government.

When Landon was the only incumbent Republican governor to win re-election in 1934, he landed at the forefront of the race to serve as the Republican candidate for the 1936 presidential election. However, Landon was defeated by Franklin D. Roosevelt in the presidential election, having garnered 17 million votes but carrying only Maine and Vermont's electoral college votes. Landon retired from national politics and subsequently returned to Kansas to finish out his term as governor.



Landon continued to pursue his independent oil interests, yet remained active in Republican politics. He was appointed the United States delegate to the Pan-American Conference in Lima, Peru, in 1938 and served as a delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention in 1940, 1944 and 1948. Landon had four children, including his daughter Nancy Landon Kassebaum, who was elected U.S. Senator from Kansas in 1978 and re-elected in 1984 and 1990.

