

# Ode to Kansas

**Bettse Folsom**

On the rolling hills of Kansas,  
Where the wheat grows tall and free,  
Where the sunflowers open wide,  
To the rays of the glowing sun.  
Where the cattle roam in the meadows,  
Grazing along the sleeping brooks,  
And the deer run free and wild,  
To the pleasure they undertook.

Oh, how I long to be flying,  
Over the spacious fields of green,  
Like the fliers near Wichita,  
Who can see the bird's eye scenes.  
Like the eagles along the river,  
Who nest high up in the trees,  
And prey on the swimming fish,  
Dallying in the clear cool brooks.

Kansas, so generous and voluminous,  
Was once a battleground full of blood,  
Where battles were fought over slavery,  
And none seemed to win for good.  
Many came from the east,  
To protest the bondage of the innocent,  
And many suffered hardships so numerous,  
They are lost forever in uncertainty.

An adventurous state full of history,  
A state full of life and work,  
A state built by the hard work of many,  
A state with love from the roots.  
The nation was built on the backs of Kansans,  
Who fought and died and worked,  
From railroads to silos to planes,  
Kansas has been the nation's deep earth.

## About the Author

Elizabeth "Bettse" Folsom has been interested in writing since she was 6 years old. Even at that age, she wanted to write her own children's books. She has written different articles over the years on various topics.

For four years Folsom worked for the *Wyandotte Daily News*, a local newspaper, as a photojournalist and feature writer. Her photography, as well as her objectivity in writing about local current and political events, were very well recognized and appreciated. She also wrote for *At Ease Magazine* published through the *Leavenworth Times* travel and restaurant reviews across Kansas.

In 2014, Folsom assisted her mother, Helen Walsh Folsom, a writer of nonfiction and fiction books about Irish culture. She was the editor, cover graphic designer, publisher, marketer, and business manager for Helen's last four books. She also set up her and her mother's websites and blog postings.

Folsom has been published in the *American Fitness Magazine*, *Reunion Magazine*, *Kansas Traveler*, and several others. In 2019, she self-published her own book, "How to Self-Publish Your Book, A list of ABCs key steps on how to self-publish a book."

Folsom is currently working on her mother's last book, one of eight, which will be published posthumously for her mother in 2023-2024. Another project Folsom is undertaking is a family history book.

While working on her associate degree at KCKCC, Folsom has been a regular attendant at the college in many different functions including participating in the annual WYCO Ethnic Festival, and three of those years, project managing the silent auction at the festival. She and her mother also represented the Irish Americans booth.

Folsom graduated KCKCC with an associate degree in General Studies Magna Cum Laude, a Multimedia/Video Production Technical Certificate, and another technical certificate in Web Design and Applications.

She has also been employed at KCKCC as a Technical Assistant for the KCKCC Technical Education Center, and various titles of duty including Administrative Assistant for Learning Commons at Main Campus and the Technical Education Center.

Folsom has been a resident of Wyandotte County, Kansas all her life and still lives in the valley she grew up. She is a Protestant Christian who attends Open Door Baptist Church.