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The Past: Planted in History

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Planted in history

“Women in Greenhouse” is a print made in 1995 from an undated negative in the Kansas State University archives. Although the exact date of this photo’s origin is not known, the university archivist and the director of K-State’s Historic Costume and Textile Museum date it to 1890-1900 based on clues in the photo. The first clue is the angle of the greenhouse roof, which matches that of the university’s original greenhouses used from 1883 to around 1910. The second clue comes from the clothing worn by the women pictured, especially the Mother Hubbard gown worn by the woman on the left. This American garment, with its looser style, was popular everyday apparel for women from around 1880-1920. The photo also illustrates how K-State has long been involved in plant research, including on sorghum as detailed in the story starting on Page 8.

Photo courtesy of the Kansas State University archives