



**GARY AND
BARBARA
BLEEKER**

Gary and Barbara Bleeker teach at Emporia State University and are nationally recognized authorities on books for children and young adults.

Young Readers Are in for a Treat

Retired Kansas State faculty member George Brandsberg's tale, *AFOOT—A Tale of the Great Dakota Turkey Drive*,” (The Cedartip Company, 2006), ages 10 and older, chronicles the hilarious and sometimes terrifying adventure of 13-year-old Joshua Greene.

Escaping a mean uncle, Joshua sets out across the Dakota Territory during the late 1870s in search of his big sister. Poor and hungry, he joins a small group of rough and tough drovers—not on a cattle drive but a turkey drive.

Joshua, the only member of the drive on foot, survives storms, outlaws, hostile native Americans and his mercurial boss, Rufus Peach.

Joshua cooks for the motley crew and even becomes attached to a couple of distinctive turkey toms.

Readers will get caught up in the amusing story of driving unruly turkeys on a 200-mile trip through rough territory and will learn Great Plains history along the way.

—Excerpted from the Bleekers' column in the *Topeka (Kansas) Capitol-Journal*, July 24, 2006.