



NEWS RELEASE

Fort Hays State Historic Site
1472 Hwy 183 Alt • Hays KS 67601-9212

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHRISTMAS PAST AT HISTORIC FORT HAYS

Discover a Victorian “Christmas Past” at Fort Hays State Historic Site on December 7 and 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. This year marks the 37th year this popular holiday open house has been held at the museum. Buildings will be lit with candles and kerosene lanterns. Several trees with homemade Christmas ornaments will decorate the buildings. A large tree reminiscent of the 1880s will be set up in the blockhouse where visitors will be entertained with Christmas carols sung by volunteers dressed in period clothing.

A small table-top tree, typical of the mid 1800s, will be decorated in the officers’ quarters. Often, evergreen trees were not available and so a branch of a deciduous tree (like the hackberry) would be used. Visitors can also sample hot chocolate and homemade candy cane or chocolate chip cookies and children will receive a bag of goodies from Father Christmas.

The Kansas Pacific Model Railroad Club will have trains set up in the guardhouse where visitors will also can enjoy a short Christmas film and a bag of popcorn.

Outside, visitors will be able to board a horse-drawn wagon for a leisurely trip around the grounds. The rides are limited to 25 people at a time and will stop at the officer’s home and the blockhouse. Behind the officer’s home, two frontiersmen will be making hot spiced cider to warm up the riders. Near the blockhouse, soldiers will be making hot fried apples over a campfire.

Walkways will be lined with luminaries, but visitors are welcome to bring their own flashlights. Tours begin in the visitor’s center. Admission to Christmas Past is free.

Fort Hays State Historic Site is located four miles south of I-70 exit 157 at Hays. The site is one of sixteen administered by the Kansas Historical Society. For more information contact Fort Hays State Historic Site, 1472 Highway 183 Alt., Hays KS 67601-9212; 785-625-6812; <thefort@kshs.org>; kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.