



NEWS RELEASE

Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PROGRAM TO PRESENT THE STORY OF GERMAN STRUGGLE AGAINST SLAVERY IN KANSAS

HANOVER, KS— The public is invited to attend a free program at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site. Dr. William D. Keel of the Kansas Humanities Council will present "Hurrah, Frei Kansas! Germans Struggle Against Slavery in Kansas Territory, 1854-1861."

In 1854, the New England Emigrant Aid Society recruited German settlers to Kansas in support of the freestaters. Nearly 80 German settlements in the northeastern counties were established. This program will illustrate how Germans participated in the Bleeding Kansas period in the summer of 1856, including their involvement in the territorial constitutional debates, and eventually joining the Union Army in great numbers. Dr. Keel is professor of German and chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at the University of Kansas, and has researched the many German settlements and dialects in Kansas, including the Washington County area.

About the site: The Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site is one of sixteen state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. In 1857 Gerat H. and Sophia Hollenberg established a way station for travelers on the Oregon and California Trails, and from 1860 to 1861 they operated a Pony Express station. The building still stands and, along with the visitor center, tells the stories of the Hollenbergs, pioneer life, and the Pony Express.

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.