



# NEWS RELEASE

Kaw Mission State Historic Site  
500 North Mission • Council Grove KS 66846

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contact: Mary Honeyman • 620-767-5410 • kawmission@kshs.org

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2008

### ***THE ONLY FEMALE CHIEF OF THE KAW*** ***Sharp to present story of Lucy Tayiah Eads at Kaw Councils Meeting***

COUNCIL GROVE, KS— The annual general membership meeting of the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc. will feature the first program in the Kaw Mission Councils 2008 educational program series, ***Our Fabulous Flint Hills: The Hills Are Alive!*** Pauline Sharp will present *Lucy Tayiah Eads: Only Female Chief of the Kaw*. The program will be presented immediately following a brief business meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 7, at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site. All Kaw Mission Council 2008 programs are free and open to the public.

Pauline Sharp is one-quarter Kaw or Kanza Indian and a proud member of the Kaw Nation. Her grandmother, Lucy Tayiah Eads, was a full-blood Kaw born in a teepee on the banks of the river in Oklahoma Indian territory in 1888. When Eads was six years old her parents were starved to death. As was custom at that time, she was adopted by Washunga who was Chief of the Kaw tribe. Eads later became the first and only female Chief of the Kaw Tribe. Sharp has researched her grandmother's legacy and brings her story back to life, one that began just 15 years after the Kaw were forced to relocate to Oklahoma from their reservation just south of Council Grove.

Pauline Sharp lives in Wichita with her husband, Doug, and works as a Senior Information Application Specialist at Via Christi hospital - St Francis campus. Doug manages the Scully Estate land in Marion and Butler counties. Pauline had the distinction of being an honored Washunga Days parade participant in 1991, and since that time has developed a greater interest in her family's Kaw heritage. As a member of the Kaw Nation, she participates in the affairs of the Kanza tribe. Sharp also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Mid-America All-Indian Center, Wichita, which serves as a cultural center and museum dedicated to the preservation and education of the heritage of the American Indian.

The Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc. and the Kansas Historical Society sponsor the Kaw Mission Councils 2008 educational program series. Free refreshments compliments of FKH. For additional information contact the Kaw Mission State Historic Site at 620-767-5410, kawmission@kshs.org. Group reservations are recommended.

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** For an image of Sharp posing next to a photo of her grandmother, please contact KSHS public information officer Teresa Jenkins at tjenkins@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.