



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

HAYS, Kan.—The Kansas Historical Society announced that Fort Hays State Historic Site will sponsor a Victorian “Christmas Past” event 7-9 p.m. December 5 and 6. This year marks the 38th year this popular holiday open house has been held at the museum. Buildings will be lit with candles and kerosene lanterns.

Table-top and larger trees, 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) was frequently used. Visitors can also sample hot chocolate and homemade oatmeal cookies and children will receive a bag of goodies from Father Christmas. Music by the instrumental duo “Tindell Hill” and the Fort Hays Volunteers singers dressed in period clothing, will greet visitors with Christmas carols as they enter the buildings. The Kansas Pacific Model Railroad Club will have trains set up in the guardhouse where there will also be a display entitled “Santa Through the Years and Around the World.” In the blockhouse, visitors will see a short Christmas film while enjoying a bag of fresh, hot 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 officers quarters, hot, spiced cider from over a campfire will warm up the riders. Near the guardhouse, soldiers will be making hot fried apples over another campfire.

Walkways will be lined with luminaries, but visitors are welcome to bring their own flashlights. Visitors are requested to begin at 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 16 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.

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.