



NEWS RELEASE

John Brown Museum State Historic Site
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 10, 2008

2008 FREEDOM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

*History Reenactors, Live Music Highlight
Festival September 19-21 at John Brown Memorial Park*

OSAWATOMIE, KS—A reenactment of the Battle of Osawatomie and first person narratives by Territorial Kansas historical figures are among the many activities planned for the 2008 Freedom Festival, September 19 – 21, at John Brown Museum State Historic Site, located in John Brown Park at 10th and Main.

The festivities begin at 7 p.m. Friday with a performance by Michelle Martin, portraying the proslavery Kansan Betsie Hoole. Martin will perform at Memorial Hall.

On Saturday, Martin will reprise her role as Hoole after the 10 a.m. opening ceremony and Civil War artillery demonstration. The Lecompton Reenactors will perform “Bleeding Kansas” at noon, followed by a vintage base ball game at 1 p.m. between Old Cowntown and Osawatomie Nine. At 2 p.m. Debbie Shadden and Pony Express will perform modern country music. At 4 p.m. there will be a reenactment of the Battle of Osawatomie. Saturday’s activities wrap up with a western music performance by Dave and Sharon Boyd at 5:45 p.m.

The Freedom Festival continues at 10 a.m. Sunday with a church service featuring the Voices of Praise. At 11 a.m. reenactor Mary Buster performs as Florella Adair. At 11:30 Dave and Sharon Boyd return to the stage for western music. A Civil War weapons and drill demonstration will take place at noon, followed by Civil War era music at 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. Kerry Atenbrend will portray John Brown, followed by Norman Joy as Robert E. Lee at 3 p.m. The festival concludes after a Civil War skirmish demonstration at 4 p.m.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can see or participate in 19th century crafts demonstrations, a modern craft fair, and children’s activities. Food vendors will also be on site.

The John Brown Museum State Historic Site will also be open all weekend. The site features an original log cabin that belonged to Brown’s half sister and her husband, family furnishings and belongings, and Civil War weapons. The cabin served as John Brown’s informal headquarters during the border war between Kansas and Missouri. For more information, call 913-755-4384. The John Brown Museum State Historic Site is one of 16 state historic sites administered by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency.

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