



NEWS RELEASE

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

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 6, 2008

GHOSTS IN THE GRASS TO WRAP UP KAW MISSION COUNCILS 2008

Free program 3:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, October 18

COUNCIL GROVE, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced the sixth and final program in the Kaw Mission Councils 2008 educational program series, *Our Fabulous Flint Hills: The Hills Are Alive!* will feature Marva Weigelt presenting ***Ghosts in the Grass: In Search of Forgotten Voices***. The program will be presented at 3:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, October 18, 2008, at Kaw Mission State Historic Site, 500 North Mission, in Council Grove. All Kaw Mission Councils programs are free and open to the public.

Marva Weigelt will take visitors on a trip back in time—deep into the landscape of the Flints Hills—for provocative, poignant, funny, and inspiring glimpses into the lives of the area's early inhabitants.

Gazing across the vast, uninhabited expanses of open prairie today, it's challenging to imagine that hundreds and hundreds of abandoned homesteads, schools, flint quarries and campsites hide quietly in the grass, telling their stories to the wind. Weigelt has taken a closer look at one area in particular, southeast Chase County, and has seen ghosts in the grass and heard voices from the past. Nearly every stone tells a story—fossils in limestone, the broken flint tip from a hunter's throwing-stick, the outline of an old foundation, a crumbling root cellar, the cistern for a schoolhouse, gravestones in neglected cemeteries—and Weigelt loves tracking down old maps, ownership records, newspaper clippings, and other historical details to combine with her intuition and imagination as she weaves creative and evocative tales about people whose names and voices might otherwise be lost.

Weigelt lives and works on Homestead Ranch, where she assists with a cow-calf operation and provides support for the Homestead Range Renewal Initiative, a private effort to develop more sustainable range management techniques to preserve and enhance the diversity of native flora and fauna. She is an amateur historian and naturalist, with a background in communications and a long habit of letting her curiosity and imagination run away with her pen. Weigelt is currently working on the history of Charles Rogler's 1859 homestead for the Pioneer Bluffs Foundation. You can find out more about life on Homestead Ranch and read some of Weigelt's writing at republicofgrass.com

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

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.