



# 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

January 2, 2009

### KAW MISSION STATE HISTORIC SITE TO CELEBRATE STATE'S 148<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

*10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thursday, January 29, 2009*

COUNCIL GROVE, KAN—The Kansas Historical Society announced that Kaw Mission State Historic Site will host its annual *Celebrate Kansas!* open house on Kansas Day, Thursday, January 29, 2009. This event, free and open to the public, will run 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Guests will be greeted and served refreshments by Friends of Kaw Heritage members dressed in period clothing. Live music will be provided by Jeremiah Hershberger on accordion and Charlie Laughridge on fiddle, playing patriotic songs with guests joining in group singing.

The day's festivities will include a free quilt show, *Stars, Stars, Stars!* Hand-stitched quilts featuring Kansas-related patterns containing stars will be on display in the Kaw Mission Education Center from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Master Folk Artist Helen Ericson of Emporia will display quilts from her extensive collection. Ericson is listed in the *Who's Who in American Quilts* and has presented many quilt shows at the Kaw Mission. "Visitors to *Stars, Stars, Stars!* will see designs made with squares, triangles, diamonds and various other configurations," said Ericson. "Some of the quilts are made of old, old fabric - others are made of new fabric." Guests are encouraged to bring stars to show Ericson.

Local historian Kenneth McClintock will give his first person interpretation of T. Dwight Thacher, former editor of the *Lawrence Journal*, addressing a crowd in Topeka celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kansas statehood on Kansas Day 1886. Thacher was a delegate to one of the four constitutional conventions that argued in behalf of Kansas becoming a state. McClintock will perform several times during the day. Volunteer and Friends board member Don Jenkins, portraying H. D. Preston, will introduce McClintock. Preston was a well-known surveyor who lived in Shawnee County and was a delegate to the 1859 Wyandotte Constitutional Convention.

The Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc. (FKH) and the Kansas Historical Society co-sponsor *Celebrate Kansas!* FKH volunteers will provide free refreshments. The Kaw Mission is located at 500 N. Mission, Council Grove, KS 66846. For information, contact the Kaw Mission, 620-767-5410, [kawmission@kshs.org](mailto:kawmission@kshs.org) or visit [www.kawmission.org](http://www.kawmission.org).

The Kansas State Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.