



# NEWS RELEASE

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**REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## FORT HAYS STATE HISTORIC SITE TO BENEFIT FROM HANSEN FOUNDATION GIFT

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TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced it has received a \$100,000 gift from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan, Kansas. The funds will be used to create interpretive exhibits at the recently rehabilitated guardhouse at Fort Hays State Historic Site. The gift is a match to a Federal Preserve America Grant.

Work on the new exhibits will begin immediately, and includes plans for interactive components. Historical Society Executive Director Jennie Chinn said, “This generous gift will allow us to use state-of-the-art technology to engage our target audiences, including school children, families, and tourists. They will learn the stories of the fort as told firsthand through the eyes of an enlisted soldier and others at the fort.”

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation celebrates the life and charitable spirit of Dane G. Hansen, who followed in his parents’ footsteps in the mercantile business, then branched out into ranching, road and bridge construction, and oil production. At the time of his death in 1965, Hansen was one of the largest independent oil producers in Kansas—all the time living and working in the same place he was born. The foundation honors his hometown commitment by funding projects that improve life in western Kansas. “We thought this gift was for a good cause,” said Hansen Foundation President Carol Bales. “Fort Hays was a very important part of Kansas history, and educating school children on Kansas history is important to us.”

Fort Hays State Historic Site is one of 16 state historic sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. The home is open for tours 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday and 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students; and free for KSHS, Inc. members, active military, and children five and under.

Additional contributions to Fort Hays State Historic Site or the Kansas Historical Society can be made through the Kansas State Historical Society, Inc., the non-profit organization which supports the Historical Society through fundraising. The Kansas Historical Society, organized in 1875, was established at the outset as a public-private collaboration.

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.

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