



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2009

TEMPORARY PHOTO EXHIBIT FEATURES WORK OF KANSAS PIONEER PHOTOGRAPHER F.M. STEELE

Exhibit opens with public program 7 p.m. April 18 and runs through May 30, 2009

TOPEKA, KS— See the Kansas prairie through the eyes of pioneer photographer Francis Marion Steele in an upcoming temporary exhibit at the Kansas Historical Society. The exhibit, *Captured in Black & White: The Cowboys, Combines, and Small Towns of Frontier Photographer F.M. Steele* opens with a public program 7 p.m. April 18 and will run through May 30, 2009, at the State Archives & Library gallery at the Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Avenue. The exhibit is open 8 a.m - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. For more information, call 785-272-8681 or visit kshs.org.

At age 24, F.M. Steele arrived in Dodge City in 1890, outfitted a buggy with a portable studio, and set out across the prairie to photograph cowboys at work. For nearly half a century Steele documented the daily life of open-range cowboys. Steele's surviving work covers all aspects of life in the southwestern Plains from farming, irrigation and railroad construction projects to studio portraits, landscapes, small-town life, and American Indians.

The April 18 program will feature discussions of Steele's life and work. Speakers include Tom Rankin, Director of the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University; John Carter, photographic historian at the Nebraska State Historical Society; Jim Hoy, folklorist and author; and Larry Schwarm, nationally-known landscape photographer. The program and the exhibit are co-sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society and Emporia State University Center for Great Plains Studies with funding from the Kansas Humanities Council.

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.

--END--