



NEWS RELEASE

Fort Hays State Historic Site
1472 Hwy 183 Alt • Hays KS 67601-9212

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2009

VINTAGE BASE BALL GAME TO BE PLAYED AT HISTORIC FORT HAYS

2 p.m., Saturday, August 22, 2009

HAYS, KS—Vintage Base Ball is coming to Fort Hays State Historic Site 2 p.m. Saturday, August 22, 2009. Vintage Base Ball describes the game as it was played in the mid- to late-1800s. The game was first played in America in the early 1800s but it wasn't until 1845 that rules were drawn up. It was a popular pastime during the Civil War and after the war soldiers took the game with them out west. It wasn't long before town teams were organized. Although today's baseball is descended from the early base ball rules, it was quite a different game in the 19th century. One of the more obvious differences is that the game is not played on a field but rather *in* a field! The game at Fort Hays will be played on the parade ground. Teams are composed of nine players, men and women, young and old. The opponents of the Fort Hays Nine base ball club will be the Hodgeman Nine club from Jetmore. The umpire will not only call the game but will explain to the spectators exactly how Vintage Base Ball is played. The public is encouraged to attend and is asked to bring lawn chairs. There is no charge to attend. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Fort Hays State Historic Site at 785-625-6812.

Fort Hays State Historic Site is located four miles south of I-70 exit 157 at Hays. The site is one of sixteen administered by the Kansas Historical Society. For more information contact Fort Hays State Historic Site, 1472 Highway 183 Alt., Hays KS 67601-9212; 785-625-6812; <thefort@kshs.org>; kshs.org.

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