



NEWS RELEASE

John Brown Museum State Historic Site
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2009 FREEDOM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

*History Reenactors, Live Music Highlight
Festival September 19-20 at John Brown Memorial Park*

OSAWATOMIE, KS—Battle reenactments, live music, and first person narratives of Abraham Lincoln, Amelia Earhart, and Kansans abolitionists are among the many activities planned for the 2009 Freedom Festival, September 19 – 20, at John Brown Museum State Historic Site, located in John Brown Park at 10th and Main.

Civil War weapons and drill demonstrations begin the festivities at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday. At 11 a.m. Debbie Shadden and Pony Express will take the stage to perform country music. At 1:30 Florella Adair will be portrayed by Mary Buster, Florella's great-great-granddaughter. Abraham Lincoln reenactor Tom Leahy will perform at 2 p.m., followed by Kerry Altenbernd portraying John Brown at 3 p.m. At 4 p.m. there will be a reenactment of the Battle of Osawatomie.

The Freedom Festival continues at 10 a.m. Sunday with a church service featuring Voices of Praise. At 11 a.m. Todd Mildfelt will perform Civil War era music. At 12 noon the Lecompton Reenactors will perform the play *Bleeding Kansas*. At 1 p.m. there will be a reenactment of a Civil War battle between confederate partisans and Union troops. At 2 p.m. Anne Hawkins will portray abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor Mary Jane Ritchie, followed by Ann Birney portraying Amelia Earhart. Peace at War takes the stage at 4 p.m. with rock and roll music, and the Kansas Army National Guard will have its climbing wall available from 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

Throughout the weekend, visitors can see or participate in frontier artisan demonstrations, a modern craft fair, and children's activities. The Miami County Sheriff's Department will be on site with its Indent-a-Kid booth and Command Center. Food vendors will also be on site.

The John Brown Museum State Historic Site will also be open all weekend. The site features an original log cabin that belonged to Brown's half sister and her husband, family furnishings and belongings, and Civil War weapons. The cabin served as John Brown's informal headquarters during the border war between Kansas and Missouri. For more information, call 913-755-4384. The John Brown Museum State Historic Site is one of 16 state historic sites administered by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency.

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