



NEWS RELEASE

Kaw Mission State Historic Site
500 North Mission • Council Grove KS 66846

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contact: Mary Honeyman • 620-767-5410 • kawmission@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2009

Celebrate Kansas! At the Kaw Mission

Kansas Day will be celebrated at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site in the annual *Celebrate Kansas!* open house. This event, free and open to the public, will be held on Kansas Day, Thursday, January 29, 2009, from 11 am to 6 pm. Guests will be greeted and served refreshments by Friends of Kaw Heritage members dressed in period clothing. Jeremiah Hershberger on accordion and Charlie Laughridge on fiddle will provide live music playing patriotic songs with a distinctive Kansas flavor 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 11am – 6pm. Helen Ericson of Emporia, Kansas, will display quilts from her extensive collection. Ericson enjoys a long and illustrious history with the art of quilting. Ericson is listed in the Who's Who in American Quilts and was honored with the title of "Master Folk Artist" by the Kansas Historical Society through a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. The *Stars, Stars, Stars!* quilt show is one of many quilt shows Ericson has presented at the Mission. In 1985 she showed quilts in a tent on the Kaw Mission lawn during Washunga Days. In 1996 she produced a quilt show at the Kaw Mission as a feature of the Santa Fe Trail 175th birthday celebration. *Yesterday's Creations: Today's Treasures & Kansas Quilts* quilt shows were part of the *Celebrate Kansas!* 2007 & 2008 events. *Red, White & Blue & Flowers of the Prairie* quilt shows were held during Washunga Days 2007 & 2008. "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 and quilts to show Ericson.

Local historian Kenneth McClintock will give his first person interpretation of T. Dwight Thacher, addressing a crowd in Topeka celebrating the 25th 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 deliver this speech several times during the day. Volunteer and Friends board member, Don Jenkins, portraying H. D. Preston, will introduce McClintock. Preston, a well-known surveyor at that time, lived in Shawnee, Kansas and was a delegate to the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention in 1850.

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.



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