



NEWS

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FAMILY DAY OFFERS KANSAS TERRITORIAL ADVENTURE

To be held April 3, 2004 in Topeka

TOPEKA—Life in Kansas Territory offered music, dancing, and games along with the environmental hardships. People in the 1850s developed finely honed skills and found enjoyment on the prairie. Families today can explore these territorial ways of life at Return to the Territory: A Family Adventure, 10:0 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday, April 3, 2004 at the Kansas History Center and Museum in Topeka.

This special one-day family event, sponsored by WIBW-TV, Topeka, will commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of Kansas Territory. Highlights of this special day include the opening of the special exhibit, *Willing to Die for Freedom: A Look Back at Kansas Territory*. On this day only, visitors will be admitted free to see the exhibit, which features the actual Kansas-Nebraska Act. This exhibit observes the territory's 150th anniversary and explores Kansas' free-state heritage.

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed in May 1854 opening the territory to settlement, many people already were living here. These native tribes included the Kansas and the Pawnees, as well as the 20 different tribes that were moved into the area in the 1830s from east of the Mississippi River.

Family day incorporates the cultural heritage of the many different people represented during the territory. Performances will include Native American dancers and drummers and bands depicting territorial period folk music. Artisans include a Native American flutist, spinners, weavers, a tailor, wood carvers, and blacksmiths will demonstrate skills. Other activities include a live animal farm and children's games from the time period.

On the outdoor stage musicians will perform and Kansas celebrities will provide readings from territorial letters and diaries. The program also includes readings from children's books on Kansas. Vendors will provide a variety of food selections. Families also are invited to bring lunches; picnic tables are available on the grounds.

The nine-member Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission is chaired by Judge Deanell Reece Tacha, other members are Constance M. Achterberg, Jack E. Dalton, Larry M. Hatteberg, Mike Hayden, Yolanda Lopez, G. Hal Ross, Gail

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RETURN TO THE TERRITORY: A FAMILY ADVENTURE – Add 2

Kuehl, William L. Muir III, Karen Seaberg, and Karen Swisher. A 28-member advisory committee assists the commission with its projects and activities.

For further information about the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission, contact the Kansas State Historical Society at 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615; 785-272-8681; TTY 785-272-8683;
www.kshs.org/sesquicentennial.