



NEWS

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TWO STATEWIDE HISTORICAL COMMISSIONS LAUNCH WEB SITES

Sites online at lewisandclarkinkansas.com and www.kshs.org/sesquicentennial/

Two new web sites will offer increased Kansas history resources for students, teachers, families, and researchers on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial. The sites, created by the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission, provide information about commemoration activities and offer a wealth of historical material and images.

Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial

Kansas became a territory in 1854 with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission web site assembles stories of a time when Kansas captured the nation's headlines.

"The events that occurred in Kansas 150 years ago are relevant to the lives of Kansans today," said Deanell Reece Tacha, chair of the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission, and chief judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. "The Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial web site is the first of many projects that the Commission has undertaken. The web site gives a glimpse into the dramatic and turbulent times that led the nation to the Civil War and opened Kansas for settlement. Through this medium Kansans can explore their history and discover how this anniversary will be commemorated. This statewide commemoration will encompass the four quadrants of the state with activities, curriculum, programs, and publications. The commemoration goals will be to inspire Kansans with a sense of their history and its relevance to issues facing Kansas today."

The Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission web site is located at www.kshs.org/sesquicentennial/. Features of the site are information about the commission and its projects, a brief territorial history, a territorial timeline, images of historic photographs and objects from territorial times, a listing of territorial communities, a calendar of events provided by Washburn University, and links to territorial historic sites. Projects being planned by the commission include a gala, tree planting, Kansas Chautauqua series by the Kansas Humanities Council, and elementary school materials on the Kansas Territory.

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.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led a military expedition that followed the Missouri River along what is now northeast Kansas. The Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission web site encourages visitors to rediscover areas the famous explorers traversed.

During those 14 days in 1804, members of the Lewis and Clark wrote glowing reports of the lush landscape and abundance of fruit and game, court-martialed two crew members for getting drunk while on guard duty, and celebrated the first Fourth of July in the West.

“One of the unique aspects of our website is that it allows readers to take a virtual journey along the trail and discover the day-to-day experiences of the expedition members by reading excerpts from their journals,” said **Karen Seaberg**, chair of the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. “The excerpts contain wonderfully descriptive language and terminology unique to that era.”

“Our site also focuses on ways teachers can incorporate this truly multi-discipline study, how Native cultures are sharing their heritage, and how communities are planning to commemorate the bicentennial,” Seaberg said.

The Lewis and Clark in Kansas website, created by Callahan Creek in Lawrence, is located at www.lewisandclarkinkansas.com. Features of the site include the interactive trail, which links journal entries with present-day sites. Numerous planned educational projects will bring Lewis and Clark teaching resources to the entire state. The site highlights communities along the river, featuring their attractions, and upcoming events related to the anniversary. The tribal nations section provides a glimpse into the stories of the Kanza Nation, and links to the resident tribes. Current events, news releases, and media information also are included.

Supplementing this website is a new brochure, “Lewis and Clark in Kansas,” also produced by the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission and designed by Callahan Creek. That brochure provides a brief history of the expedition’s experiences in what is now Kansas and serves as a guide for modern-day travelers wanting to follow the Lewis and Clark Trail through the communities of Kansas City, Leavenworth, Atchison and White Cloud.

For copies of the new brochure or for further information about Lewis and Clark in Kansas, contact the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, 1501 Arrowhead Drive, Atchison, Kansas 66002, 913-367-8412, kslewisandclark@charter.net.