



NEWS RELEASE

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

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contact: Bob Wilhelm • 785-625-6812 • thefort@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2008

VINTAGE BASE BALL GAME TO BE PLAYED AT FORT HAYS STATE HISTORIC SITE

FORT HAYS, KS—Vintage Base Ball is coming to Fort Hays State Historic Site at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 29, 2008. 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 a set of rules was 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 site's parade ground. Teams are composed of nine players, men and women, young and old. The teams facing off on the 29th are the Fort Hays Nine Base Ball Club and 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 are asked to bring their own 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 16 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; e-mail: thefort@kshs.org; or visit our website at kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.