

# NEWS RELEASE



Kansas Historical Society  
6425 SW 6th Avenue  
Topeka KS 66615-1099  
785-272-8681 • kshs.org

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Contact

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Kansas Day Commemoration at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site

**COUNCIL GROVE, KS** — The Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc. (FKH) will commemorate Kansas Day at 1:30 pm on Saturday, January 24, 2015, in the education center at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site. The video, *The Kaw Nation: State of the Nation in 2003*, will be shown as the first program in a series of educational programs to be presented this spring at the Kaw Mission State Historic Site that follow the theme *The Kaw Nation: Then and Now*. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

While serving as the Historical Preservation Officer for the Kaw Nation, Betty Durkee presented this program for the Kaw Council educational program series in 2003. Durkee joined Kaw Nation in August 2000 as a Grant Writer. Her expertise in history quickly led her to become Kaw Nation Historic Preservation Director, 2001-2008. She was a graduate of Penn State with a B.A. in English and History as well as a member of the elite Phi Beta Kappa. She was a loyal and passionate supporter dedicated to Kanza history, and the development of Allegawaho Heritage Memorial Park south of Council Grove. Ms. Durkee, who died on July 4th, 2009, will long be remembered for her valuable contributions to the Kaw Nation during her tenure there.

In this presentation, Ms. Durkee gives her audience a base line to compare the Kaw Nation of 2003 with the current state of the nation. She covers the reorganization of the Kaw Tribe to become the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma in the 1950s, the recovery of the Kanza language and formation of the Kaw Language Project, the Strategic Plan implemented in 1995-96, the purchase in the year 2000 of 158 acres of the tribe's last home in Morris County (The Diminished Reserve), and early plans for Allegawaho Park. Durkee concludes her talk reporting economic and land development taking place in 2003. Group discussion follows the video. Video runs approximately 60 minutes with discussion of 30 minutes. Refreshments are free.

This event is co-sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society and the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., (FKH). Volunteers will serve free refreshments of popcorn and soft drinks during the showing. The FKH General Membership Meeting is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the Kaw Mission State Historic Site at 620-767-5410, e-mail [kawmission@kshs.org](mailto:kawmission@kshs.org), or visit [www.friendsofkawheritage.org](http://www.friendsofkawheritage.org).

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