

Chapter 1 : FORT HAYS INN \$46 (\$17517317) - Updated Prices & Hotel Reviews - KS - TripAdvisor

After twenty-five years of service, Fort Hays was abandoned on November 8, after the Indian Wars had ended. The military reservation was transferred to the Interior Department on November 6, , and to the state, by a Congressional act on March 28,

Stage coach and pony express were carrying them and their belongings to new homes where ever they could find places to homestead. These pioneers pushed westward and became the immediate target of the Indians who made raids on stage and express lines. This endangered the lives and homes of the settlers who had come to the west seeking to settle on the plains of Kansas. To protect the stage and express lines and the pioneer settlers the United States government ordered the establishment of several military posts along the trails leading to the west. One of these fort was in the vicinity of Big Creek and the Smoky Hill river. This fort was named Fort Fletcher. This is a sketch by Theodore R. Davis as he saw it in late soon after its establishment. The site was about " fourteen miles southeast " of Hays, Kansas. The fort was named in honor of Thomas Clement Fletcher, governor of Missouri. On October 11, , the fort was established by a Lieut. According to the record this regiment was an infantry organization of Confederate prisoners of war who had enlisted in the United States Army for service on the frontier. Official establishment of the fort was in General Order 22 of the Department of Kansas. This station will be known as Fort Fletcher. Volunteer Infantry were stationed at the post, their principal function being to protect stages of the Butterfield Despatch from hostile Indians. Troops were busy with this assignment and in their first engagement, november 20, , killed seven Indians. Indian raids became to numerous and dangerous for the stage line to continue its operation and seven months later the post was abandoned on May 5, . Five months later on October 11, , the post was again occupied, this time by regular troops, Company C, 3rd Infoatry, under command of Lieut. Stouch, later re-enforced by Troop E, 7th Cavalry. Then on November 17, , a General Order was received from the Headquarters Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth which changed the name of the post. A destructive flood on Big Creek almost wiped out the first site of Fort Hays. Several soldiers were drowned and there was extensive loss of property to the stores and supplies of Fort Hays. After this disaster at the site of old Fort Fletcher and the newly named Fort Hays, was moved to a site closer the the Kansas Pacific railroad that had laid tracks near this location. Hancock and the fort was moved to the location where is stands to day. This location is on the southwest side of Hays Kansas near Big Creek. Major Gibbs became commander of the new Fort Hays on June 23, , and on July 4, the first United States flag was hoisted on the military reservation of acres of rolling Kansas prairie. Over the years the number of troops stationed at the fort fluctuated according to necessity and the activity with the Indians on the Wester Kansas plains. Assaults against the Indians were organized at Fort Hays and at time the fort here became the base for such campaigns as that of Custer against the Cheyenne and Kiowa Indians, directed by General Philip Sheridan in Acting Adjutant General A custodian was appointed to protect the physical property and then on March 28, Congress passed an act granting the military reservation of acres to the State of Kansas in this order: An Experiment station of the State Agricultural College. A western branch of the Kansas State Normal School, and that in connection there with the said reservation shall be used and maintained as a public park. Provided, that said state shall within five years, after the passage of this act, accept this grant, and by proper legislative action establish on said reservation, an experiment station of the State Agricultural College, and a western branch of the Kansas State Norman School. And whenever the said lands shall cease to be used for the purposes herein mentioned, the same shall revert to the United States. Provided further, that the provisions of this act shall not apply to any tract or tracts, to which a valid claim has attached, by settlement or otherwise, under any of the public land laws of the United States. The fort is located to the south of US bypass on the south side of Hays, Kansas. If you are passing through the State of Kansas this is one of the must see pieces of history Kansas has to offer. For an in depth study of these two forts, get the book: Oliva "Fort Hays Block House".

Chapter 2 : Washington Forts

Fort Hays, originally named Fort Fletcher, was a United States Army fort near Hays, www.nxgvision.com from to , it was an important frontier post during the American Indian Wars of the late 19th century.

Army established Fort Fletcher on October 11, Named after then governor of Missouri Thomas C. William Tamblyn and three companies of the 1st U. Volunteer Infantry established the post and were stationed there along with detachments of the 13th Missouri Cavalry. Use of the trail ceased, and Fort Fletcher closed on May 5, This time, the purpose of the fort was to protect workers building the Union Pacific Eastern Division railway westward, parallel to the Smoky Hill Trail. But, the path of the railroad was five miles to the north. Between that and the flood, the Army decided to relocate the fort. Winfield Hancock , Maj. Alfred Gibbs chose a new location 15 miles to the northwest where the railway would cross Big Creek. There was no wall around the post, and the only defensive structure was a blockhouse. The post was designed as a base for supplies and troops who could be dispatched into the field to protect vulnerable people and places when conflict with Plains Indians broke out. Philip Sheridan , supported by Lt. George Custer and the 7th Cavalry Regiment , used it as his headquarters during his campaign against the Cheyenne and the Kiowa. Nelson Miles assumed command in April Miles led the 5th Infantry Regiment , assigned to protect the railroad as its construction extended west into Colorado Territory. Army continued to use Fort Hays until June 1, , finally closing and abandoning it November 8, What remained of the reservation reopened as Frontier Historical Park in Route Bypass immediately southwest of Hays, Kansas. The second site of Fort Fletcher, used from October to June and renamed Fort Hays in November , was located at the confluence.

Chapter 3 : Fort Hays State University - Wikipedia

The building that is now McCartney Hall housed the university's library collection for about forty years. It was built in and named after General George A. Forsyth, who had been stationed at the Fort Hays Military Reservation.

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Rupp purchased the house " for the second time in his life " in January and had to do some cleaning and restoration work from the condition it was left in. He had sold the house in after a year period of his life restoring a then-crumbling structure and preserving its history. Velvet curtains had been torn down, door screens ripped out, and much of the furniture he had found and restored was gone. Known as the Schlyer-Eastlack home, the two-story limestone structure was built in by John Schlyer, the son of German immigrants born in Buffalo, N. Railroad work brought Schlyer to Ellis County in or at the age of 20, but he soon found a more lucrative living hunting bison and other game for the railroad workers, restaurants and families in Hays. His first limestone home was built southeast of Hays near Munjor, where he planted Osage orange trees and planted crops on acres, according to an article in the Nov. Schlyer, who spoke German, assisted the Volga-German immigrants as they arrived in the area. He later became county treasurer, sheriff, Hays postmaster and a representative in the state Legislature, where he helped work on the land grant from the federal government that turned the former military reservation into what is now Fort Hays State University, the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station, Frontier Park and Historic Fort Hays. He died in at the age of Martin and Mary Eastlack purchased the home in , and when Mary died in , it passed on to her daughter, Bonnie Storm. By then, the house had deteriorated. Her husband, Pete, wanted to tear it down, Rupp said, but Bonnie wanted the house she grew up in restored. Rupp, a Hays native, had lived in the eastern and southern U. The Schlyer-Eastlack home was what he had been looking for. The Storms hired Rupp to restore the home in the mids. To save the sagging floor and ceiling in the living room, he created support with a coffee table made from an old steam-tractor wheel. A glass top and elegantly upholstered stools give it a look to match the period wallpaper, hardware and furnishings Rupp used to decorate the home. Rupp said he purchased the home from Bonnie Storm in ; county records show the deed transferred to him in He acknowledges it will take someone with a special interest to purchase the house. Digital access or digital and print delivery.

Chapter 5 : Cemetery History

Fort Hays State University shared FHSU Forsyth Library and Learning Commons's photo.

Topics include railroads, the cattle industry, cowboys, Native Americans and frontier life. Pashchal World War II History Collection, donated by retired dentist William Paschal, contains books, declassified government documents, maps, photographs, and other materials. The library is also the repository for the books, papers and periodicals of the Fort Hays Genealogy Society. The Sternberg Museum also includes more than 3. Sternberg , who had developed it. In , researchers at the museum showed that plankton-eating fish flourished in the ocean at the same time as the dinosaurs, filling in a million-year gap in the fossil record. One of the authors of the paper was Mike Everhart , a curator of paleontology at the museum. It is responsible for offering a variety of online courses and degrees to students that are not able to be on campus. It also offers endorsements and certificates online. The Virtual College has strategic partnerships with the military, community colleges across the country, and universities worldwide. Agriculture Department[edit] The Agriculture Department is composed of two majors, the Agriculture Business major and the Agriculture major. The Agriculture major has five different options for students to choose from: John Greathouse, who also teaches a few courses offered in the Ag Department. There is also a University Farm that includes dairy, sheep, swine, beef and crop units located just west of the university that is used for educational purposes and research for different classes. The Institute has six focus areas: Survey research, program evaluation research, public policy research, and community and economic development research Strategic planning and consulting Economic and community development consulting Public administration training programs Public affairs programming conferences, speakers, forums, media events, scholarly publications, etc. In addition, the university hosts the Sebelius Lecture Series each year. Each semester, Fort Hays State University invites nationally recognized leaders to the campus to serve as keynote speakers. Its origin is unclear, but it may have been the brainchild of W. Many tigers have represented FHSU over the years, but on April 3, , the current mascot was unveiled. The costumed tiger character, Victor E. Tiger, appears at sporting and university events and is currently worn by Dawna Evers, a senior at the university. It is a celebration of the Volga German heritage of Ellis County. For entertainment, there is polka music and various booths that serve a variety of German food and beer. The first keg is tapped around There is also a homecoming parade on Saturday morning where student organizations decorate floats or walk in the parade for FHSU spirit. The homecoming football game begins Saturday afternoon. Student media[edit] Student Media at Fort Hays is housed under the banner Tiger Media Network, which includes radio and TV, stemming from their website at tigermedianet.

Chapter 6 : Fort Hays Ellis County Kansas

Fort Hays State University is the fastest growing of the Kansas Board of Regents universities. It is located in Hays, Kansas, and is a state, tax-assisted institution.

The first tree swing is easily seen to your left and the second swing is also on the left side farther down the road as you proceed north toward the center of the cemetery. As you stroll through the cemetery you might want to look for the grave marker showing the person with the earliest date of birth and those who were born on your same date of birth. Note "€" In the text below Hays was established as "Hays City" in , but the word "City" was officially dropped from the name Hays City in Clara Allen - Born: June 17, "€" Died: Feb 22, age 13 GIS Coordinates: She died at the age of 13 of scarlet fever. Her father was one of the earliest residents of Ellis County and was employed as a nurseryman in Mendota, Illinois, before bringing his family to Hays City in Clara had four older brothers and sisters, but three of them died of diphtheria in when they were very young. Martin Allen did not want his daughter to be buried at this cemetery and therefore donated an acre of his own farm land and persuaded the town company to give the remaining land needed for a public cemetery. The original grave marker has since been replaced with a granite headstone. Clara also had a sister who was three years younger who lived in Hays with the family and was married to Shephard Hutchinson on Dec 22, , in Hays. He was a prominent citizen in Hays City and for a short time period was co-publisher of the Hays City Times. As an agent for the Union Pacific railroad, he assisted a great many emigrants to locate in Ellis County and the surrounding counties. In November he was elected county surveyor, became the first horticulturist of western Kansas and was a member of the Kansas State Horticultural Society. Allen was named president. Allen was well known for his horticultural endeavors and he planted a variety of trees, hedges, and fruit orchards around his house that he built of limestone just north of the town site of Hays City. That home is still standing and is currently a private residence at Woodrow Court. He is also credited for planting the rows of trees from the outskirts of Hays City along Fort Street that extended all the way to his house north of Hays. Allen left Hays in to live with his oldest son in Grand Junction, Colorado. Shortly after arriving there, he died on April 10, , and was buried at Grand Junction. He was a leader in trying to influence the United States government to secure the abandoned Fort Hays Military Reservation to be used as an experimental station for agriculture or horticulture. The land where the fort once stood was eventually divided for use to include the college, a park and agricultural research center. Baby Alma "€" Born: There are no local records of her real name, only Baby Alma as she was known. The traveling circus was in Hays in and Baby Alma, who weighed pounds, was one of the featured side shows. An epidemic of the flu hit Hays that year and Baby Alma caught the flu, which turned into pneumonia and she died from her illness. In her tent pitched on the fairgrounds down near Big Creek, she woke one morning with the sniffles. In a few hours, she too had the flu and they took her to City Hall, which was being used as a make shift Red Cross nursing facility to care for the overflow of patients who were sick with the flu. It took six husky men to hoist her into City Hall and they had to make a special bed to accommodate her excessive weight. It was reported in the newspaper that she was certainly not an ideal patient and gained the reputation as a "nurse hater". Even when she was becoming weak from the flu, she would lie in bed and scream forth the most blood curdling string of cuss words imaginable. She hated the medicine and would hold it in her fat cheeks and spray it out of her mouth "fountain like" onto the nurses. She was a sassy girl and had a nasty temper. The nurses learned the only way they could deal with her was to refuse to give her water until she behaved better. They felt she must have lost her sweetness of youth at a young age. Her life in the circus was probably rough and because people were mean to her, she was mean to them. When she died from pneumonia, her parents, who lived in California, refused to raise a finger over the poor dead child. The circus manager had a stingy attitude and would have nothing to do with her burial. Gus Havemann, whose husband was an undertaker at the time. Jack Downing "€" Born: November 2, age 5 GIS Coordinates: He is the son of J. The obituary for Jack tells how this little boy was a favorite around the community with his big dog that was his constant companion as they played and scurried around town. Jack was the only child of Mr. Downing, and after he died of diphtheria, they had a tombstone made of Jackie

and his dog. After the Civil War, he returned to his home in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and worked at a newspaper office. In August , he moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was employed as a newspaper reporter by the Leavenworth Bulletin. In , he went to work at the Leavenworth Commercial as a traveling correspondent. About that same time, a newspaper fight was developing in Hays City and Simon Motz, a Hays pioneer and businessman, set out to find a fearless newspaper man. Downing was recommended by a mutual friend and he came to Hays in March and founded the Ellis County Star. His chief distinction as a journalist was when he scooped every newspaper in the country on the story of the Custer massacre at Little Big Horn. In January , he purchased the Hays City Sentinel and consolidated the two papers which he operated for many years as the Star-Sentinel. Although he did not seek political office, he was very active in the Republican Party and was close friends of Vice President Charles Curtis, who was from Topeka, and Senator Arthur Capper, who became the 20th governor of Kansas in . Although he had received numerous offers to sell their house, they continued to live there until his death on June 18, at the age of .

Lieutenant Edwin Philip Eckerson " Born: March 8, " Died: Aug 17, age 35 GIS Coordinates: He is the only Cavalry officer from that time period known to be buried at Mount Allen Cemetery. Records are not consistent as to the date of his birth. Army records give his date of birth as March 8, In he received a general court-martial charges unknown and was dismissed from service on July 15, Evidently, after the aid of some friends, he was allowed to serve in the military again and was appointed 2nd Lieutenant, 7th Cavalry in May He was involved with various frontier service during his military career, but was again court-martialed in for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, drunk and disorderly. He was dismissed from military service on June 30, For several years he worked different jobs taught school in Iowa, bookkeeper in Colorado and served as an undersheriff until he ended up back in Hays around On February 14, , he married Sophie M. Bergsland, who worked as a "domestic" at the fort mess hall. They had two children: Regina born Dec 4, and Theodore John born Oct 22, August 23, " Died: November 28, age 91 GIS Coordinates: He helped to operate one of the first threshing machines in the county and bought and set-up the first header in Ellis County. His obituary mentions that for nearly 35 years he lived in a room at the residence of George King at East 5th Street and every day would walk to the "Old Soldiers" G. Even though he had 6 children and a wife, there is no mention that they were living in Hays City at the time of his death. Lizzie " born , Anne " born , George Jr. He also had a son Charles t hat was born in but died at the age of 2 on October 14, An infant daughter, Blanch died on November 10, , at ten days old. Foreman died at the age of Peter Johnson " Born: May, 4 " Died: Oct 17, age 76 Sophia Johnson " Born: Oct 1, " Died: Oct 5, age 63 GIS Coordinates: After living in several mid-western states, they moved their family from Iowa and came to Ellis County in Peter established a farm in Lookout Township, a few miles south of Hays. He was a prosperous farmer and rancher and their properties grew to include many sections of land which provided a good living for the Johnson family. There were ten children, who included: When the children grew into adulthood, six of them became well known teachers in the surrounding counties. Johnson died in and a rather large monument was erected in her memory. The grave marker is easily noticed because it is the only site in the cemetery with a small wire fence surrounding the family plot. A rose bush was added to the plot in and has grown and continues to bloom around Memorial Day every year. The children eventually married, all but Miss Lilly and Peter Jr. Johnson, his daughter and son eventually moved to town. At the age of 76 in the summer of , the three of them moved to Long Beach, California. His son Louis and wife sold their property here in Ellis County and also moved to California to be near their family. A few months later, in October , Peter Johnson died in California. His body was returned to Hays and it was reported in the newspaper that his funeral was one of the largest ever held in the city of Hays with many friends and residents who came to pay their last respects. Others members of the Johnson family buried in this plot include:

Chapter 7 : Fort Hays | Revolv

He had a vision for an agricultural school and experiment station to serve the farmers and cattlemen in the area and set out to secure the Fort Hays military reservation for this purpose when it was abandoned as a military post.

Army established Fort Fletcher on October 11, Named after then governor of Missouri Thomas C. William Tamblyn and three companies of the 1st U. Volunteer Infantry established the post and were stationed there along with detachments of the 13th Missouri Cavalry. Use of the trail ceased, and Fort Fletcher closed on May 5, This time, the purpose of the fort was to protect workers building the Union Pacific Eastern Division railway westward, parallel to the Smoky Hill Trail. But, the path of the railroad was five miles to the north. Between that and the flood, the Army decided to relocate the fort. Winfield Hancock , Maj. Alfred Gibbs chose a new location 15 miles to the northwest where the railway would cross Big Creek. There was no wall around the post, and the only defensive structure was a blockhouse. The post was designed as a base for supplies and troops who could be dispatched into the field to protect vulnerable people and places when conflict with Plains Indians broke out. Buried at the base of a nearby hill, she went on to become a figure in local folklore, the "Blue Light Lady", as people claimed to see her ghost in the area around the fort. Philip Sheridan , supported by Lt. George Custer and the 7th Cavalry Regiment , used it as his headquarters during his campaign against the Cheyenne and the Kiowa. Nelson Miles assumed command in April Miles led the 5th Infantry Regiment , assigned to protect the railroad as its construction extended west into Colorado Territory. Army continued to use Fort Hays until June 1, , finally closing and abandoning it November 8, Congress passed an act donating the Fort Hays reservation to the state of Kansas for use as an experiment station of the Kansas State Agricultural College and a branch of the Kansas State Normal School. What remained of the reservation reopened as Frontier Historical Park in Route Bypass immediately southwest of Hays, Kansas. The second site of Fort Fletcher, used from October to June and renamed Fort Hays in November , was located at the confluence.

Chapter 8 : McCartney Hall - FHSU

The land named in the grant had once been Fort Hays Military Reservation, which had been abandoned in The college, named the Western Branch of the Kansas Normal School of Emporia, opened in

Historic Fort Hays, Kansas Fort Fletcher was established on October 11, as a frontier military post to protect military roads, defend construction gangs on the Union Pacific Railroad, and guard the U. Also tasked with protecting the stage and freight wagons of the Butterfield Overland Dispatch, the soldiers defended travelers from Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Indian attacks. Located on Big Creek about 14 miles southeast of where Hays City would later be built, the post was situated on low-lying land along the creek, and was utterly destroyed by a flood that occurred in the spring of , in which several Buffalo Soldiers lost their lives. The forts site was abandoned. A number of substantial buildings were established and in its early years, nearly hundred troops were stationed there. It was also the home of several well-known Indian Wars regiments such as the Seventh U. Cavalry, the Fifth U. Infantry, and the Tenth U. Cavalry, whose black troopers were better known as buffalo soldiers. After twenty-five years of service, Fort Hays was abandoned on November 8, after the Indian Wars had ended. The military reservation was transferred to the Interior Department on November 6, , and to the state, by a Congressional act on March 28, Displays through the historic site illustrate pioneer and military history. The museum was opened in and is administered by the Kansas State Historical Society. Part of the site is now the campus of Fort Hays State University. Sentinel Hill Haunting “ When a cholera epidemic hit Fort Hays, Kansas in , a young woman named Elizabeth Polly was among those who attended to and comforted the ill and dying. Some say she was a trained nurse, while others maintain she had no medical training. Eventually she too, contracted the disease and her dying wish was to be buried upon the hill. In the fall of , she was given a full military funeral but alas, the soldiers were unable to grant her last wish as the hill is composed of bedrock, so she was buried at its base. The soldiers bodies were moved to Fort Leavenworth and the civilian bodies were placed in the Hays City Cemetery. The first recorded report of her sighting was made by a man named John Schmidt in , who reported seeing a woman dressed in blue walking across his farm towards Sentinel Hill. Following her, the apparition walked into one of his sheds, but when he arrived no one was there and nothing had been disturbed. However, when the officer got out of the car, there was no woman and no damage to the vehicle. Purportedly, her ghostly spirit emits a blue light and the locals began to call her the Blue Light Lady. The ghost of Elizabeth Polly has been seen many times over the years haunting the lonely hilltop that she had frequented so often in life. Today there is a park at Fort Hays that honors her memory. Fort Hays is now a state historic site southwest of town.

Chapter 9 : Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University (FHSU) is a public, co-educational university in Hays, Kansas. It is the third-largest of the six state universities governed by the Kansas Board of Regents, with an enrollment of approximately 15, students (4, on campus, 6, online, 3, Chinese program).