

**PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release**

**May 17, 2024**

From: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum  
204 S Main St; Wichita, KS 67202

**SPECIAL EXHIBIT OPENING: “VICTORIAN MOURNING TRADITIONS, HOME FUNERALS”  
May 21<sup>st</sup> – June 16th**

In solemn reflection, the parlor inside the Museum’s seven room Victorian Cottage is transformed to depict the scene of a typical Wichita home funeral of a century ago.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Wichitans adhered to the mourning customs of Europe, especially England. The emerging middle class enjoyed increasing affluence and indulged in customs previously afforded more privileged society. Memorial traditions took on a popular role in the lives of Americans.

During our community’s first 50 years, funeral gatherings typically took place at the residence of the deceased where the casket was displayed and mourners gathered preceding the trip to the cemetery.

The Historical Museum is accredited by the AAM, distinguished as one of the best museums in the United States. It has served the community since 1939 and now occupies Wichita’s original 1890 City Hall building, featuring dozens of exhibits and thousands of artifacts.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum is one of America’s leading local history museums and accredited by the American Alliance of Museum since 1972. It has served the community since 1939 and since 1980 has occupied Wichita’s original 1890 City Hall building.

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Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Supported in part by the City of Wichita and the Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County Kansas

*OUR VISION: To provide a world class museum experience, advancing the understanding and exploration of the rich historical and cultural heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas.*