



**FRANKLIN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
OTTAWA, KANSAS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Negro League baseball expert Phil S. Dixon to speak at the Old Depot Museum

Ottawa, Kansas—On Thursday, July 21, baseball fans and history enthusiasts are invited to learn more about the legendary Kansas City Monarchs and their connections to Franklin County during a special event at the Old Depot Museum.

Author, historian, and Negro League Baseball Museum co-founder Phil S. Dixon will present *A Baseball Revolution: Kansas City Monarchs in Our Hometown*. In addition to their status as the 1924 World Champions, the Kansas City Monarchs were barnstormers, playing local town teams all over Kansas and beyond. The Monarchs played in Franklin County at least five times, including August 21, 1929, when they played LeLoup during the Modern Woodmen of America Picnic.

The program is the final event offered in conjunction with the Old Depot Museum's current exhibit, *Small-Town Ball: Playing America's Game in Ottawa and Franklin County*.

Since 2014, Dixon has done his own barnstorming in his quest to visit every city and town that has ever hosted a Kansas City Monarchs baseball game. He has shared the history of the Monarchs and their local connections in more than 120 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

Dixon has won numerous awards, including the Casey Award for Best Baseball Book of 1992 and a SABR (Society of American Baseball Researchers) MacMillan Award for excellence in research. He has also coached inner-city baseball and serves as an advisor for Kansas City's RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) youth baseball program. He was also interviewed in *Town Teams: Bigger than Baseball*, a documentary on the history of small-town baseball teams in Kansas.

The program begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Old Depot Museum at (785) 242-1250.

The Old Depot Museum is located at 135 West Tecumseh Street in Ottawa, Kansas. The museum strives to educate visitors about the importance of trains in small towns and the history of Franklin County, Kansas. It is operated by the Franklin County Historical Society.

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