

2013 Annual Report

Freedom's
Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Counties

Kansas: Allen • Anderson • Atchison • Bourbon • Chautauqua • Cherokee • Clay • Coffey • Crawford • Doniphan • Douglas • Franklin • Geary • Jefferson • Johnson • Labette • Leavenworth • Linn • Miami • Montgomery • Neosho • Osage • Pottawatomie • Riley • Shawnee • Wabaunsee • Wilson • Woodson • Wyandotte

Missouri: Barton • Bates • Buchanan • Cass • Clay • Jackson • Johnson • Lafayette • Platte • Ray • St. Clair • Vernon

Geography and People

Location: 41 counties in eastern Kansas and western Missouri

Area: 31,021 square miles

Population (2012): 2,917,976

Mission

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is dedicated to building awareness of the struggles for freedom in western Missouri and eastern Kansas... FFNHA inspires respect for multiple perspectives and empowers residents to persevere and share these stories. We achieve our goals through interpretation, preservation, conservation and education for all residents and visitors.

2013 Partner Spotlight: Watkins Community Museum

Nearly 9,000 people toured phase one of a new permanent exhibit focused on Douglas County's free-state struggle and Civil War history—including William Quantrill's devastating 1863 raid on Lawrence, Kansas. The exhibit also explores how Lawrence rose from the ashes of the raid and, in more recent times, called on early values to face Civil Rights era challenges and anti-Vietnam War conflicts.

Freedom's Frontier's first Awards Luncheon

In October, Fort Scott hosted the first Freedom's FFNHA Awards Luncheon, attended by about 100 partners, board members and members of the Fort Scott Community. The event held at the historic Liberty Theatre honored recipients of the Billings MVP (Most Valuable Partner) award, and the Tacha Freedom Award.

Historian and Border War Scholar, Dr. Jeremy Neeley presented a program and later signed copies of *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri*, a book of scholarly essays. The recently-published book was edited by FFNHA friends and history professors Dr. Jonathan Earle (KU) and Dr. Diane Mutti-Burke (UMKC).

Eileen Robertson, Humbolt (KS) Preservation Alliance, and Carol Bohl, former director of the Cass County Historical Society in Harrisonville, MO, shared the Billings award. Both were early partners in FFNHA,

and continue to contribute to the work of the heritage area.

The MVP Award was named for Judy Billings, Lawrence, Kansas, who retired in 2012 from her position as the first executive director of Freedom's Frontier.



Most Valuable Partners – Standing: Carol Bohl, Judy Billings. Seated: Eileen Robertson.

The Tacha Award, established to encourage high school students to learn about FFNHA, included a \$250.00 prize. Quentin Umphenour, Mound City, Kansas, a

freshman at Jayhawk-Linn High School received the award. Umphenour's entry in the competitive awards program was a portrayal of Col. James M. Williams, who led the African Americans of the first Kansas Colored Volunteer infantry. Umphenour was nominated by the Lowell Milken Center in Fort Scott.



Tacha Freedom Award winner Quention Umphenour is congratulated by Deanell Tacha.

The Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust and other private donors underwrote the luncheon and the cash prize for the Tacha Freedom Award. In 2014, the awards luncheon will be held in St. Joseph, MO.

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation fund established

Topekan Gene Hicks made FFNHA history in June. During a board of trustees meeting, Hicks presented a check for \$12,000.00 to establish an endowment fund for Freedom's Frontier with the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

While FFNHA has received other sizeable donations since its creation as a national

heritage area in 2006, this is the first donation designated solely for this purpose.

Contact the FFNA office if you would like to help the fund grow!

FFNHA Board Chair John Dillingham with donor Gene Hicks (center) and Louise Welborn, with the GKCCF at the 1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum.



Congressional Delegation

Senators

Roy Blunt, MO
Claire McCaskill, MO
Jerry Moran, KS
Pat Roberts, KS

Representatives

Emanuel Cleaver, MO 5th District
Sam Graves, MO 6th District
Vicky Hartzler, MO 4th District
Tim Huelskamp, KS 1st District
Lynn Jenkins, KS 2nd District
Mike Pompeo, KS 4th District
Kevin Yoder, KS 3rd District

2013 Board of Trustees

Honorary Co-chairs: Governor Sam Brownback, KS • Governor Jay Nixon, MO

Executive Committee

John Dillingham, Chair Kansas City MO • Deanell Tacha, Vice-Chair, Lawrence KS • Bill Tempel, Secretary, Lexington MO • Charles Jones, Treasurer, Lawrence KS

Executive Committee Members-At-Large

Charles Clark, Prairie Village KS • Jody Ladd Craig, Leawood KS • Kala Stroup, Lawrence KS

Robert Arter, Fort Leavenworth KS • Connie Banwart, Fort Scott KS • Deborah Barker, Ottawa KS • Kay Barnes, Kansas City MO • Duane Benton, Kansas City MO • George Breidenthal, Kansas City KS • Joanne Collins, Kansas City MO • David Dunfield, Lawrence KS • Jan English, Prairie Village KS • Bob Ford, St. Joseph MO • Michael L. Gibson, Paola KS • Kent Glasscock, Manhattan KS • Grant Glenn, Topeka • Crosby Kemper III, Kansas City MO • Shelia Lampe, Iola KS • Gary Nevius, Overland Park KS • Don Scott, Kansas City MO • Luther Smith, Kansas City KS • Bill Wagon, Topeka KS • Kevin Wood, Harrisonville MO

2013 Partner Spotlight:

Franklin County Historical Society

Big news this year was the \$772,000 donated for an endowment. Significant work was done on both the Dietich Cabin—log and mortar repairs—and the Old Depot—window improvements and paint for the trim and cornices.

A taste of what kept us busy in 2013

Staff, trustees and friends in Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area:

- Recruited members for a Signage Committee to oversee a Signage Comprehensive Master Plan. TranSystems was selected as the vendor to assist in creating the plan. TranSystems will help prioritize and set goals for implementation of wayfinding and interpretive signage over the next 10 years. The master plan will be completed in mid-2014.

- Partnered with Cass County Historical Society and Cass County Civil War Roundtable to produce a bi-state tour of Quantrill's Raid to commemorate the sesquicentennial. Originally conceived of as a one-day Missouri tour, it became a weekend-long experience to explore the raid in Missouri and Kansas, from multiple perspectives.

Extending the tour brought Cass County greater economic impact as more participants spent the night in Harrisonville hotels and motels. The project

was funded fully through ticket sales. Freedom's Frontier provided technical assistance for tour guides, tour support and stops on the Kansas side. Over seventy people participated in the tour and as a result, Freedom's Frontier developed a partnership with the University of Kansas's Osher Lifelong Learning program to provide technical assistance for a shortened tour and lunchtime discussion of Order Number 11 as an Osher Fall 2013 course.

- Partnered with the Lawrence Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lawrence Public Library, Watkins Museum of History, and Lawrence Arts Center for a Twitter-based reenactment of Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence to commemorate the sesquicentennial. The hashtag #QR1863 trended

worldwide the day of the reenactment, with over one million Twitter users seeing or using the hashtag a total of five million times. The reenactment garnered national press and won a national and two state awards. The project was funded by Kansas Humanities Council and 1863 Commemorate Lawrence, with in-kind contributions from participating organizations and over twenty volunteers.

- Partnered with Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to secure a \$12,000 National Park Foundation, America's Best Ideas grant to produce summer daycamp for 200 Boys and Girls Club 4th-6th grade students in Topeka, Lawrence, and Greater Kansas City. Students explored the "Civil War to Civil Rights" theme and built connections to their nearest park service unit and local history sites. Over twenty Freedom's Frontier sites participated, including Harry S Truman National Historic Site.



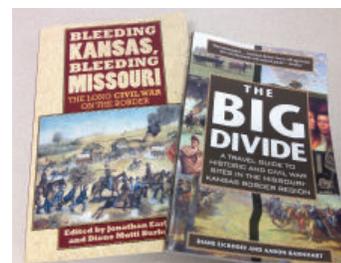
The Carnegie Building in Lawrence played host to #QR1863 on August 21, 2013, as Quantrill's Raid was reenacted with Twitter as if the raid was happening in real time.

What the heritage area was reading

- *Bleeding Kansas, Bleeding Missouri: The Long Civil War on the Border*, edited by Johnathan Earle and Diane Mutti Burke – In 2011, FFNHA, the Barton P. and Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, the Kansas City Public Library, and other public and private donors cosponsored a Border War Symposium at the Kansas City Public Library. Papers presented at the symposium are now a book.

- *The Big Divide: A Travel Guide to Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region*, by Diane Eichhoff and Aaron Barnhart. The book includes eight itineraries for touring the heritage area, and the authors have made presentations at many partner sites.
- *Divided Loyalties – Civil War Soldiers Buried in Clay County, Missouri* – Clay County Archives and

Historical Library wrote and published this book to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. FFNHA promoted the project online.



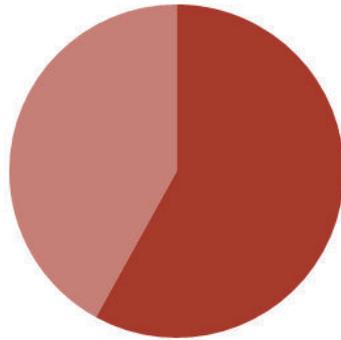
FFNHA Partners Interpretive Grant projects showcased

When reviewing applications for interpretive grant funding, the Grant Review Committee is serious about taking into consideration how the projects selected for funding will impact not only the applicant's site and community, but the greater heritage area.

As part of the Awards Luncheon in October, grant projects were showcased, giving the FFNHA partners an opportunity to:

- share a successful grant project
- learn how to book one of the traveling exhibits that resulted from grant projects
- network and plan new collaborative projects.

In 2013, \$44,050.00 in funding was awarded to partners for 12 Interpretive



2013 Interpretive Grant Leveraged Funds

- Grant Funds – \$45,050.00
- Leveraged Funds – \$32,470.00



The Stern Visitations of War, Cass County's War Years, 1854-1865 – a project of the Cass County Public Library, Harrisonville Branch, and the Cass County Historical Society – has resulted in a traveling exhibit; a cross-border Interpretive Grant project about slaves brought from Missouri to Kansas as contraband; and a speaker presentation at the Carnegie Building in Lawrence.

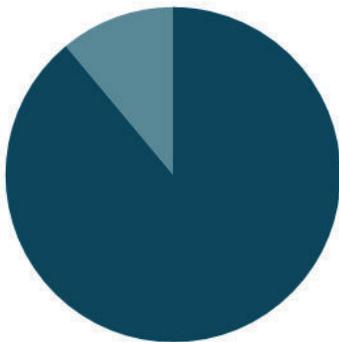
Grants. Partners pledged an additional \$32,470.00 in leveraged funds, through cash, and in-kind

donations. Interpretive Grant applications are accepted in February, May, August and November.

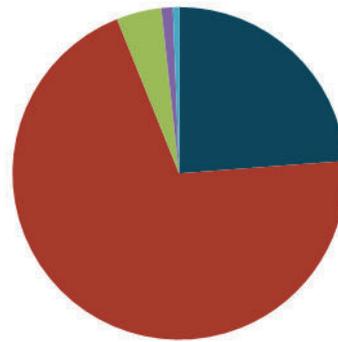
FFNHA 2013 Expenditures and Income

In 2013, Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area saw the development of an endowment, an increase in restricted grant funding and the development of more diversified revenue streams. In 2014, we intend to continue these trends in order to allow our friends more ways to invest in our shared stories and our partner organizations.

For many of our partners, a small investment goes a long way. Freedom's Frontier operates with the same mindset at our partners, working to stretch a small investment over 41 counties and putting that money to work to assist with preserving and interpreting our shared history.



- Program Expenditures – \$605,393.04
- Administration Expenditures – \$75,245.33



- Heritage Partnership Program – \$149,909.88
- Restricted Grants – \$441,850.00
- Private – \$27,525.81
- Program Revenue – \$7,024.12
- State, Local, Partners, and Other – \$3,758.04

Advisory Committee

Alexis Woodall, Chair, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm • Deborah Barker, Vice-Chair, Franklin County Historical Society and Old Depot Museum • Paul Bahnmaier, Lecompton Historical Society • Peggy Buhr, Bates County Museum • Cheryl Collins, Riley County Historical Society • Jody Ladd Craig, Mid America Regional Council • Bill Fischer, Fort Scott National Historic Site (non-voting member) • Jack Landers, Johnson County (MO) Historical Society • Kathleen Quigley, Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park • Eileen Robertson, Humboldt Historic Preservation Alliance • Alana Smith, Westport Historical Society

Guiding Principles

1. We will be tolerant and respectful of diverse stories from multiple perspectives.
2. We will respect property rights.
3. We will focus on authentic and engaging experiences.
4. We will honor the region's peoples, past and present.
5. We will appreciate unique cultural and historic assets within the nationally important landscape.
6. We will invest in community engagement, education and empowerment.
7. We will sustain and grow a sense of place.
8. We will value and protect the natural environment.
9. We will consider future generations in everything we do.

2013 Partner Spotlight: Trading Post Museum

Trading Post Museum had many visitors in 2013, from across the U.S. and from other countries. The historical displays relating to Bleeding Kansas, the Civil War period, and Native American History were complimented. A group of Potawatomi from Indiana toured and was pleased to see information about St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park at Centerville, Kansas.

From the FFNHA Board Chair



As the third chair of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, I follow in the footsteps of passionate and visionary advocates for this enterprise. Deanell Reece Tacha and John Dillingham both dedicated many hours and great foresight into establishing this heritage area and securing its future.

Since authorized by Congress in October 2006, Freedom's Frontier has made much progress. With the input

of our many partners, we produced a management plan that is held up as an example for others around the country. Now we are deep into the work of realizing all that the plan outlines.

For the past two years, we have been fortunate to be able to make a number of grants to partner organizations to help them offer new programs, improve their interpretation and increase their outreach. This work recognizes that, like any entity composed of multiple partners, Freedom's Frontier is only as strong as its individual members.

We are working closely with a nationally recognized consultant, TranSystems, Inc., on a comprehensive signage plan. Although

its implementation will take many years, this will fulfill another goal of our management plan and bring much anticipated visibility to the marvelous sites within our boundaries.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees and diligent staff truly dedicated to assuring it prospers well into the future. That means our eyes are focused on building a strong financial base for operations and programs that will enhance the story told uniquely in our heritage area – that of the enduring struggle for freedom.

What nobler cause could we put our time to?

Jody Ladd Craig

On the horizon: FFNHA projects

FFNHA staff is working on these and other projects:

- **Underground Railroad brochure.** Staff applied for a Network to Freedom grant in partnership with heritage area Network to Freedom sites, programs and facilities.
- **Prairie landscape preservation, an interpretive brochure and programming.** Staff applied for a National Park

Foundation Disneynature Grant in partnership with Fort Scott National Historic Site and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The project includes preserved prairie and "prairie stories" throughout FFNHA.

- **Expanded Interpretive Grant program.** This will support a wider range of projects connecting partner sites and organizations

across political boundaries (city, county, state).

- **Comprehensive marketing plan.** The plan includes establishing Travel Information Centers.
- **Expanded Boys & Girls Club daycamps.** Fort Scott National Historic Site will become a camp hub.
- **Comprehensive Signage Master Plan.** Gateway and directional signage will be included within this plan.

Who we are: Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, consisting of 41 counties in western Missouri and eastern Kansas, is a grassroots effort to share the nationally significant stories about the struggle over freedom on the frontier. While this area's history often divided citizens, today residents are integrating differing points of view into a shared story.

FFNHA became a National Heritage Area on October 12, 2006. FFNHA involves residents, public and private organizations working together to build awareness of this area's freedom stories.

Leveraging federal, state, local and private funding, we empower communities and individuals to serve as stewards of their stories. We

strive to build new alliances to support our heritage.

FFNHA is a partnership unit of the National Park Service and is administered by Destination Management, Inc.



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Vision for 2028

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is an internationally recognized region in western Missouri and eastern Kansas where a young nation's diverse definitions of freedom collided. Through sharing authentic and honestly interpreted stories, residents respect multiple views of freedom. Compelling learning experiences, interpretation and preservation offer visitors and residents of all ages an understanding of the region's importance. Historically aware citizens collaborate to build diverse economies for current and future generations.

2013 Partner Spotlight: St. Joseph, MO

FFNHA Partners in St. Joseph have been busy. Taking advantage of Interpretive Grant opportunities, Mount Mora Cemetery, the Pony Express National Museum, and the St. Joseph Museums, Inc., have all created video presentations to share their Freedom's Frontier connected stories, and market the museums. The Parks and Recreation Department with the Friends of the Park/ River City Development Committee have partnered with the St. Joseph Downtown Partnership to create murals on Western Migration and the American Civil War, and are working on a proposal for a video to document and market the city park system's history, which dates to 1855.