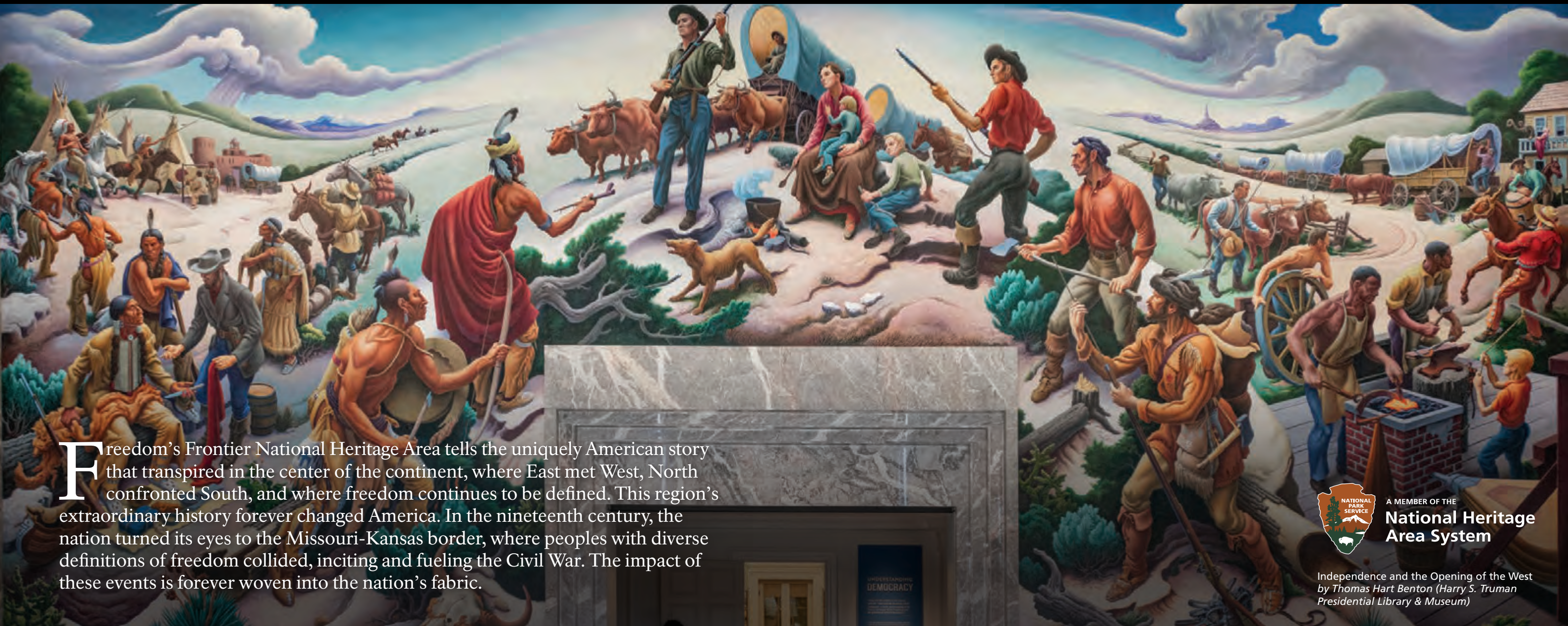


Freedom's Frontier

Freedom's Frontier
National Heritage Area
Kansas/Missouri
freedomfrontier.org

The Stories of Freedom's Frontier



Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area tells the uniquely American story that transpired in the center of the continent, where East met West, North confronted South, and where freedom continues to be defined. This region's extraordinary history forever changed America. In the nineteenth century, the nation turned its eyes to the Missouri-Kansas border, where peoples with diverse definitions of freedom collided, inciting and fueling the Civil War. The impact of these events is forever woven into the nation's fabric.

What Does Freedom Mean to You?

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is a testing ground for debates concerning rights, freedom, and their meaning in the American experiment. Past struggles there touched off a firestorm that prefaced the Civil War. These struggles continue to the present day as our nation's concept of "freedom for all" evolves. Freedom's Frontier is defined both by the geography of its 41 counties—a fabric of rivers, topography, soils, and vegetation across the states of Missouri and Kansas—and by the events that occurred here over the past two and a half centuries.



Quindaro Townsite (Kansas City, Kansas)

Whose Freedoms are Important?
On the 250th anniversary of the United States, visitors don't have to head east to experience extraordinary events that changed America forever.

In the 1800s, before the nation expanded across the continent, the western border of Missouri was the frontier. Kansas was permanent Indian Territory for both the Plains Indians, for whom Kansas was their ancestral lands, and for Native Americans from the east who were removed to Kansas Territory. As easterners looked to settle Kansas, the border between Kansas and Missouri became a testing ground for debates concerning rights, freedom, and their place in American democracy.

During the 1850s, the nation turned its attention to Missouri and Kansas, where people with different definitions of freedom collided, inciting and fueling the Civil War.

Struggles in Missouri and Kansas continue to the present day as our concept of "freedom for all" evolves. The conflict here stretched into the integration of schools and other institutions and into today's debates over freedom. This area tells a uniquely American story where freedom continues to be defined.



Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park (Wellsville, Kansas)

Whose Heritage Are We Preserving?
The historical figures of this region were closely tied to the natural environment. The suitability of different types of agriculture in Missouri and Kansas played a role in where pro-slavery and free-state forces settled. People of the past recognized the power of the landscape and used features like ridges and rivers to their advantage. Along the Missouri-Kansas border, natural barriers did not exist. It was here that Bushwhackers and Jayhawkers collided. Each group, in pursuit of their cause, crossed the border south of the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers with ease. Their knowledge of the land and people helped to provide comfort during their raids.

Visitors today can discover the connections between rivers and topography to the location of a trail and nearby towns. Many modern highways follow the old transportation routes. Scouted by Native Americans and worn into the landscape by horses and wagons, these historic routes provided many paths for today's highways.

Are Local and National Politics Inseparable?
From this country's infancy, northerners and southerners disagreed about slavery and other cultural and economic issues. These struggles emerged not in 1861 with the first shots of the Civil War, but a decade earlier on the border between Missouri and Kansas Territory. The debate over the expansion of slavery into Kansas Territory soon turned bloody as revenge, retribution, and retaliation fueled and extended the Border War.

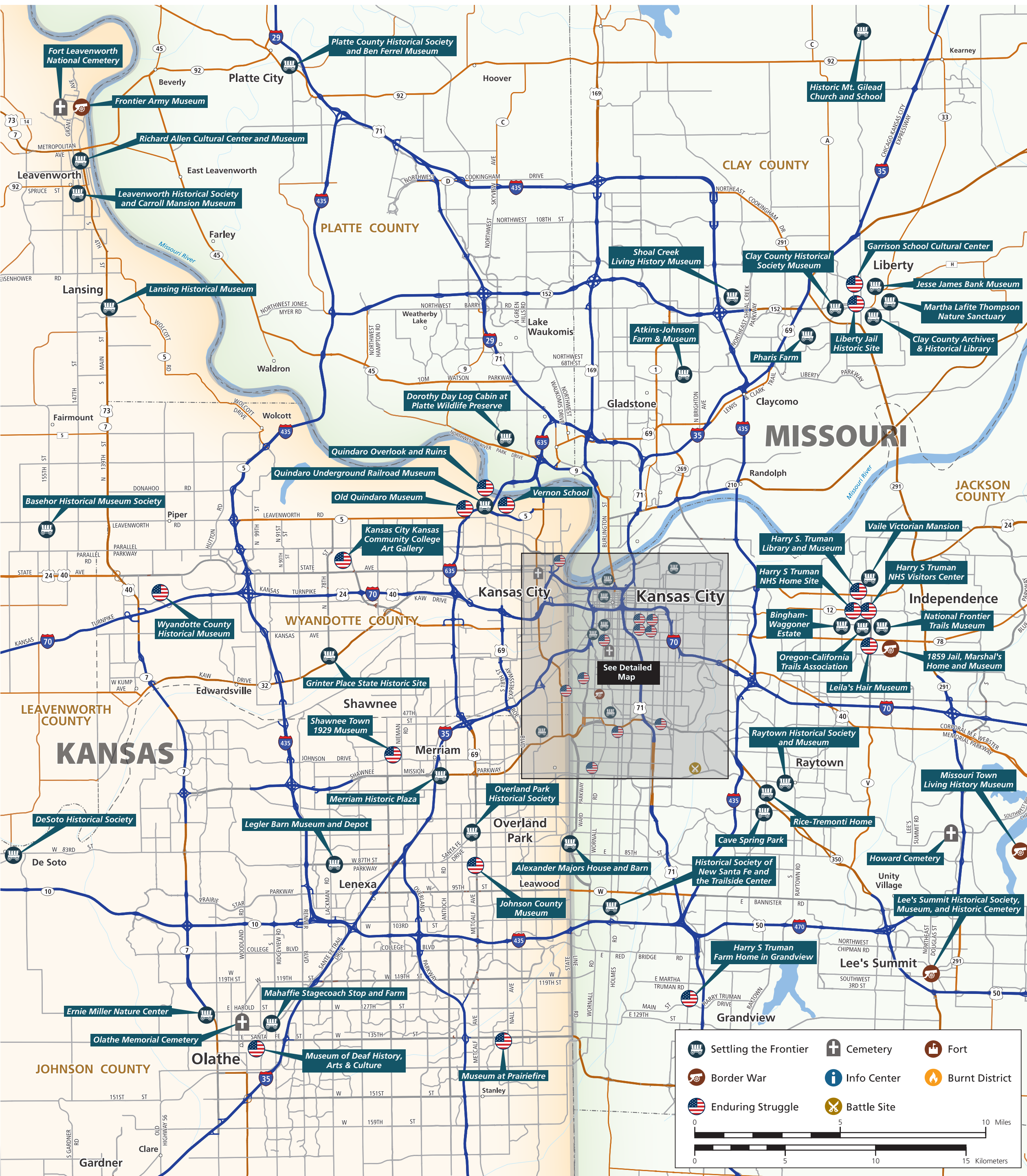
How Is the Frontier Determined?
The historical figures of this region were closely tied to the natural environment. The suitability of different types of agriculture in Missouri and Kansas played a role in where pro-slavery and free-state forces settled. People of the past recognized the power of the landscape and used features like ridges and rivers to their advantage. Along the Missouri-Kansas border, natural barriers did not exist. It was here that Bushwhackers and Jayhawkers collided. Each group, in pursuit of their cause, crossed the border south of the confluence of the Kaw and Missouri Rivers with ease. Their knowledge of the land and people helped to provide comfort during their raids.

Is This Area Free?
As you uncover the story of Freedom's Frontier, what emerges isn't just an anecdote of "Indian vs. Settlers," "Free State vs. Slave State," "Master vs. Enslaved," or "Segregation vs. Integration," but instead a saga of human passions, opportunities, collaboration, ingenuity, zealotry, and hope. This story doesn't just end with the close of the Civil War.

Missourians and Kansas of all races, creeds, and genders continue to reframe concepts of freedom. Their perspectives, stories, and journeys in that pursuit deserve to be told. We invite you to explore our region and encounter our stories as we refocus the nation's attention on our frontier, where freedom was forged.



Constitution Hall (Topeka, Kansas)



1855 Harris-Kearney House Museum
westporthistoricalcal.org
westporthistoricalcal.org

1859 Jail, Marshal's Home and Museum
jchs.org/1859jailmuseum
alexandermajors.org
alexandermajors.org

Allen County Historical Society
allencountyhistory.weebly.com

Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum
ameliaeearhartmuseum.org

Amelia Earhart Hanger
ameliaeearhartmuseum.org

American Flight Museum
americanflightmuseum.com

American Jazz Museum
americanjazzmuseum.org

Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/
places/anita-b-gorman-conservation-discovery-center

Arabia Steamboat Museum
1856.com

Atchison County Historical Society
atchisonhistory.org

Atkins-Johnson Farm & Museum
atkinsjohnsonfarm.com

Baker Wetlands and Discovery Center
bakermuseum.org/history-traditions/
the-wetlands

Basehor Historical Museum Society
basehorhistory.org

Bates County Museum & Historical Society
batescountymuseum.org

Battle of Byram's Ford Historical Marker Trail
battleofwestport.org

Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/battle-island-mound-state-historic-site

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/battle-lexington-state-historic-site

Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum
baxterspringsmuseum.org

Beecher Bible and Rifle Church
mountmitchellprairie.org/
kansas-heritage-history-mount-mitchell-beecher-bible-and-rifle-church

Bingham-Waggoner Estate
bwestate.net

Black Archives Museum of St. Joseph
blackarchivesmuseum.org/black-archives-museum

Black Archives of Mid America
blackarchives.org

Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park
blackjackbattlefield.org

Blue Room and Gem Theatre
blue-room.com

Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park
nps.gov/bvbr

Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
brucewatkinscenter.com

Burlington Schuyler Museum
burlingtonmuseum.org/schuyler-museum

Burning of Osceola Monument
theleo.com/entry/23511

Burnt District Monument
cchsmo.org



THE SETTLEMENT OF THE FRONTIER
For the half million pioneers who traveled on the Santa Fe, California, Mormon, and Oregon Trails, the Missouri-Kansas border was the jumping-off point. In this place where river travel ended, traders, miners, and emigrants purchased provisions and prepared for long overland treks. As they traveled west, many began to see the "permanent" Indian frontier beyond Missouri's western border as an obstacle to Manifest Destiny.

Above: Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site (Fairway, Kansas)



THE MISSOURI-KANSAS BORDER WAR
When Kansas was opened for settlement in 1854, a border war ensued, capturing the nation's attention. The Kansas-Nebraska Act nullified the uneasy balance established by the Missouri Compromise and left the territory's future slave status in the hands of settlers. The stakes were high for both sides. The violence of the Missouri-Kansas Border War ushered in the Civil War, consumed the region in bloody conflict through war's end, and devastated communities on both sides of the border.

Above: Constitution Hall State Historic Site (Leocomton, Kansas)



THE ENDURING STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
The nation's struggle for freedom did not end with the Civil War. Though the war eliminated clashes over geography, efforts to break down society's barriers continue. Since the Civil War, this place has inspired national policies and ongoing efforts to secure equal freedoms for all Americans.

Above: American Jazz Museum (Kansas City, Missouri)

Freedom's Frontier Partner Sites

Bushwhacker Museum
bushwhacker.org

Caney Valley Historical Society
caneyhistoricalmuseum.org

Carnegie Building
lawrencetools.org/pd/facility/rental/
carnegiecentral

Cave Spring Park, home of Barnes Enclosure, Cave Spring, and 3 Trails
cavespring.org

Cherryvale Historical Museum
facebook.com/Cherryvalehistory

Clay County Archives & Historical Library
claycountyarchives.org

Clay County Historical Society Museum
claycountyhistoricalsocietymuseum.org

Clendening History of Medicine Museum
https://www.kumc.edu/school-of-medicine/academic/departments/history-and-philosophy-of-medicine/library.html

Coffey County Historical Society Museum
coffeymuseum.org

Confederate Memorial State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/confederate-memorial-state-historic-site

Constitution Hall in Topeka
oldkansascapitol.org

Constitution Hall SHS (Leocomton)
leocomtonkansascapitol.org/constitution-hall-state-historic-site

Crawford County Historical Museum
crawfordcountymuseum.com

Democratic Headquarters of Kansas Territory (Leocomton)
leocomtonkansascapitol.org

DeSoto Historical Society
facebook.com/destotokansahistorical

Dietrich Cabin
olddepotmuseum.org

Dole Institute of Politics
doleinstitute.org

Dorothy Day Log Cabin at Platte Wildlife Preserve
plattewildlifepreserve.org/platte-wildlife-preserve

Douglas School Project
douglasschool-higg.org

Edgerton Community Museum
facebook.com/groups/590851284312055

Ernie Miller Nature Center
jprcd.com/1841/Ernie-Miller-Park-Nature-Center

Eudora Area Historical Society and Community Museum
cityofeudora.org/100/Eudora-Community-Museum

Excelsior Springs Museum and Archives
esmuseum.com

First Territorial Capitol
visitearneycounty.com/85/First-Territorial-Capitol

Flint Hills Discovery Center
flinthillsdiscovery.org

Forest Grove Cemetery Project
forestgrovecemeteryproject.org

Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery
cm.va.gov/cmshnch/FTLeavenworth.asp

Fort Osage National Historic Landmark
makeyourdayhere.com/Events/Attractions/Historic-Sites/Fort-Osage

Fort Scott National Historic Site
nps.gov/fosc

Franklin County Historical Society Archives & Research Center
olddepotmuseum.org

Frontier Army Museum
history.army.mil/Army-Museum-Enterprise/Find-Army-Museum/Frontier-Army-Museum

Gardner Historical Museum
gardnerhistoricalmuseum.com

Gardner Junction Park
gardnerkans.gov/Home/Component/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/18143

Garrison School Cultural Center
gall-garrisonschool.org

Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America
libweb.umkc.edu/glama

Geary County Historical Society and Museums
gearyhistory.org

General Jo Shelby Park and Statue
hmdb.org/m.asp?m=90359

Glore Psychiatric Museum
stjosephmuseum.org/glore-psychiatric-museum

Goodnow House State Historic Site
rileys.org/goodnow-house

Gordon Parks Museum
gordonparkscenter.org

Great Overland Station
parks.sncs.us/473/Great-Overland-Station

Grinter Place State Historic Site
kansahistory.org/gp/print-places/19564

Harry S. Truman Birthplace State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/harry-s-truman-birthplace-state-historic-site

Harry S. Truman Farm Home in Grandview
nps.gov/hstf/learn/historyculture/truman-farm-home-photo-tour.htm

Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
trumanlibrary.gov

Harry S. Truman NHS Home Site—Independence
nps.gov/hstf/playyourvisit/hours.htm

Harry S. Truman NHS Visitor Center
nps.gov/hstf/index.htm

Harvey J. Higgins Historical Society and Higginsville Museum
facebook.com/groups/10064361785708

Haskell Cultural Center and Museum
haskellhistory.com

Historic Mt. Gilead Church and School
visitearneycounty.com/85/History-Mt-Gilead-Church-and-School

Historic Topeka Cemetery
topekacemetery.com/home

Historical Society of New Santa Fe and the Trails Center
kpcarks.org/places/trails-center

Howard Cemetery
cityoflenexa.net/parks/facilities/historical-cemeteries

Humboldt Historical Society and Museum
humboldtkansascapitol.org/history

Humboldt's Orcutt Living History Backyard Museum
kansatravel.org/humboldt-historicalmuseum.htm

Independence Historical Museum and Art Center
IHMAAC.org

Jesse James Bank Museum
visittaymo.com/business/jesse-james-bank-museum

Jesse James Birthplace Farm and Museum
jessejamesmuseum.org

Jesse James Home Museum and Patee House
ponyexpressjessejames.com

John Brown Museum SHS and Adair Cabin
johnbrownmuseum.org/john_brown

John Wornall House Museum
wornallmajs.org

Johnson County Historic Courthouse Museum
jccmhistory.org

Johnson County Museum
jpcrd.com/museum

Kansas City Kansas Community College Art Gallery
KCKCC.edu/artgallery

Kansas City Museum
kansascitymuseum.org

Kansas Historical Society
kansahistory.gov

Kaw Point Park
kawpointpark.org

King Hill Cemetery and Preservation Corps
kinghill-cpa.org

KU Natural History Museum
bidiversity.ku.edu

La Cynne Historical Society
travels.com/listing/la-cynne-historical-society-%26-museum/60840

Lanesfield School Historic Site
jpcrd.com/435/Lanesfield-Historic-Site

Lansing Historical Museum
lansinghistoricalmuseum.com

Leavenworth Historical Society and Carroll Mansion Museum
leavenworthhistory.org

Leocomton Historical Society and Territorial Capitol Museum
leocomptonkansascapitol.org

Lee's Summit Historical Society, Museum, and Historic Cemetery
leessummitmuseum.com

Legler Barn Museum and Depot
lenexa.com/Parks-Places/Legler-Barn-Museum-Depot

Lella's Hair Museum
lellashairmuseum.net

Lexington Historical Association and Museum
visitingtonmo.com/museum-tours

Liberty Jail Historic Site
churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/location/liberty-jail

Linn County Historical Society and Museum
linncountykansanet.htm/historical.html

Little House on the Prairie Museum
lhopmuseum.com

Lone Jack Historical Society
historiolonejack.org

Lowell Milken Center for Uniting Heroes
lowellmilkencenter.org

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm
mahaffie.org

Marais de Cynnes Society and Massacre State Historic Site
travels.com/listing/marais-de-cynnes-massacre-state-historic-site/1461

Marais des Cynnes National Wildlife Refuge
fws.gov/refuge/marais-des-cynnes

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art
beach.k-state.edu

Marla Quilts, and African Quilts Museum, Inc.
marlaquiltsinc.org

Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary
naturesanctuary.com

McClure Archives and University Museum UCM
ucmo.edu/offices/archives

Mem-Edie Historical Museum
eriehistoricalcsoi.wixsite.com/mem-ehistoricalcsoi

Merriam Historic Plaza
exploremerriam.com/Visit-History/Merriam-Historic-Plaza

Michigan County Historical Museum
micomuseum.org

Midland Railway Depot
kansatravel.org/midland-railway.htm

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site
kansahistory.org/govmine_creek

Miners Hall Museum
minershallmuseum.com

Missouri Town Living History Museum
makeyourdayhere.com/Events/Attractions/Historic-Sites/Missouri-Town-Living-History-Museum

Missouri Valley Room KCMO Library
kchistory.org

Mound City Historical Society and Park
moundcity.org/historical-park

Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie Park
mountmitchellprairie.org

Mount Mora Cemetery
mountmora.org

Mount Vernon Cemetery
facebook.com/10009213580306

Museum at Prairiefire
visittwmp.org

Museum of Deaf History, Arts & Culture
museumofdeaf.org

Museum of the Kansas National Guard
kansasnsguardmuseum.org

National Archives at Kansas City
archives.gov/kansas-city

National Frontier Trails Museum
independencemo.gov/government/city-departments/parks-recreation-and-tourism/national-frontier-trails-museum

National World War I Museum and Memorial
theoriowar.org

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
nlbm.com

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
nelson-atkins.org

Newell-Johnson-Searle House
facebook.com/100064767938596

Olathe Memorial Cemetery
cemetery.olatheks.org

Old Castle Museum at Baker University
oldcastle-museum.org

Old Depot Museum
olddepotmuseum.org

Old Jefferson Town
jchks.com

Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site
parks.sncs.us/427/Old-Prairie-Town-Ward-Meade-Historic-Site

Ophthelyahola Memorial Building
hmdb.org/m.asp?m=80037

Oregon-California Trails Association
octa-trails.org

Osaage County Historical Society and Museum
osaagechs.org

Osaage Mission-Neesho County Historical Society Museum
osaagemission.org

Osaage Village State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/osaage-village-state-historic-site

Overland Park Historical Society
ophistorical.org

Pharis Farm
visittaymo.com/business/historic-pharis-farm

Platte County Historical Society and Ben Ferrel Museum
pchs1882.org

Pony Express National Museum
ponyexpress.org

Poplar Heights Living History Farm and Museum
poplarheightsfarm.org

Prairie State Park
mostateparks.com/park/prairie-state-park

Rapp School
osagechs.org/203/Rapp-School

Ray County Historical Society Museum and Genealogical Library
raycountymuseum.org

Raytown Historical Society and Museum
raytownhistoricalsociety.org

Remington Nature Center
stjosephmo.gov/250/Remington-Nature-Center

Rice-Tremonti Home
rice-tremonti.org

Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum
richardallenculturalcenter.org

Riley County Genealogical Society
rileyscym.com

Riley County Historical Society and Museum
rileyschs.org

Ritchie Cemetery
ritchiecemetery.com

Ritchie House
shawnecountyhistory.org

Robidoux Row Museum
robidouxrowmuseum.net

Shaps-Hopper Cabin at Cass County Historical Society
cchs.org

Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site
shawnneindianmission.org

Shawnee Town 1929 Museum
shawnnetown.org

Shoal Creek Living History Museum
shoalcreeklivinghistorymuseum.org

Southeast KS Nature Center at Schermerhorn Park and Cave
southeastksnature.org/KDWP-Info/Location/Museums-and-Nature-Centers/Southeast-Kansas-Nature-Center

Spencer Museum of Art
spencerart.ku.edu

St. Philippe Duchesne County and Potawatomie Trail of Death Memorial Park
kansatravel.org/stphilippememorialpark.htm

Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site
kansatravel.org/stphilippememorialpark.htm

Tonganoxxie Community Historical Society and Museum
tonganoxiehistoricalsociety.org

Trading Post Museum
tradingpostmuseum.wixsite.com/website

Union Cemetery Historical Society and Cemetery
uchskc.org

Union Station
unionstation.org

Vaile Victorian Mansion
vailemansion.org

Wabunsee Cemetery
facebook.com/417730770545064

Wabunsee County Historical Society and Museum
wabunseecountyhistory.org

Wakanusa River Valley Heritage Museum
wakanusarivermuseum.org

Wakfield Museum
travels.com/listing/wakfield-museum/461

Watkins Museum of History
watkinsmuseum.org

Watkins Woolen Mill State Historic Site
mostateparks.com/park/watkins-woolen-mill-state-historic-site

Wells P. Bailey House & Historic Preservation Partnership of Lyndon, Inc.
wpbaileyhouse.com

Wentworth Military Academy Museum
wmamuseum.org

Weston Historical Museum
westonhistoricalmuseum.org

Wilson County Historical Society and Museum
wilsoncountyhistoricalcsoi.org

Woodson County Historical Society and Museum
travels.com/listing/woodson-county-historical-museum/2623

Wyandot National Burying Ground at Huron Indian Cemetery
visittaymo.com/listing/wyandot-national-burying-ground/58

Wyandotte County Historical Museum
wyockck.org/wycomuseum

Wyeth-Tootle Mansion
stjosephmuseum.org/wyeth-tootle-mansion

For a full list of partners, visit
freedomfrontier.org/partner-sites

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area

What is Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area?
Freedom's Frontier was designated as a National Heritage Area by Congress in 2006 to foster economic development and tourism in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. This regional, grassroots initiative covers a unique physical and cultural landscape across 41 counties and 31,000 square miles. FFNHA achieves its goals by partnering with local organizations that promote three diverse, interwoven, and nationally significant stories: frontier settlement; the Missouri-Kansas Border War and Civil War; and enduring, fundamental questions about civil rights. We seek to bring together people interested in the region's past, present, and future and work together toward mutual goals.

Left to right: Jesse James Bank Museum (Liberty, Missouri); Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park (Topeka, Kansas); KU Natural History Museum (Lawrence, Kansas); Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum (Independence, Missouri)



Freedom's Frontier

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is sponsoring this program in partnership with the Missouri Humanities and with support from the Missouri Humanities Trust Fund.

