

Freedom's Frontier

BLEEDING KANSAS HERITAGE AREA



Minutes from TKHA/BKNHA Meeting, January 12, 2006,
(150th Anniversary of Charles Robinson's election as Governor of KS Territory)
Santa Fe Depot,
Osage City, Kansas

Attendees:

Clif Gordon	Wakefield Museum
Bob Carlson	Marysville Main Street
Humbert Rosetta	Osage City – guest
Darlene Rosetta	Osage City – guest
Emma Crites	Fredonia Tourism
Bill Freeman	LeRoy
Elly McCoy	Chanute
Eileen Robertson	Humboldt
Shelia Lampe	Woodson County Tourism
Ken & Mary Asher	Mound City
Kerry Altenbernd	Black Jack Battlefield
Martha Parker	Clinton Lake Museum
Sue Gervasini	Leavenworth
Sally Hatcher	Leavenworth
Deborah Barker	Old Depot Museum, Ottawa
Willie Prescott	Osage County Commissioner
Hazel May Fackler	Leavenworth
Rebecca Phipps	Watkins Museum
Alexis Radil	Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop
Bobbie Athon	KS State Historical Society
Tamra Scheid	Topeka CVB
Bob Keckeisen	KS State Historical Society
Sonia Smith	Ottawa CVB
Arnold Schofield	Mine Creek Battlefield
Suzette McCord-Rogers	Native Am Heritage Museum
Sarah Walker-Hitt	Lyndon Carnegie Library
Peggy Clark	Osage Co. Econ. Dev.
Jim McGrath	Jefferson Co. Historical Society – Econ. Dev.
Peggy Stanton	Doniphan County
Grady Atwater	

Peggy Clark, Office of Economic Development, Osage County, welcomed attendees and introduced Sarah Walker-Hill, Library Director of Lyndon Carnegie

Library and Osage County Commissioner William Prescott. Other attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda was accepted.

The December meeting having been cancelled due to inclement weather affecting the entire area of BKNHA counties, a motion to approve **November minutes** was made by Kerry Altenbernd. Seconded by Martha Parker. Motion Carried.

Financial Report: Martha Parker reported a balance of \$1,279.78 Motion to accept by Eileen Robertson. Seconded by Emma Crites. Motion carried.

Legislative Update:

Judy Billings explained that since the House is still in 109th Congressional Session, the BKNHA Bills will not have to be reintroduced this year. The Bill introduced to the Senate in March of 2005 was passed by the Senate July 26th, amended to include the 12 Missouri Counties (package Bill 301). Judy testified in November before the House. The complicated process of designation has been slowed because Bill 417 now in the House does not include the 12 Missouri Counties, and the Bill will need to reflect the change before it can be considered by the House. Judy will return to Washington during the first week of February to consult with Senator Pombo's staff.

Judy stressed that several counties, including the Missouri Counties, who are waiting for designation before coming to the table to work will find themselves too far behind.

County Commissioner Prescott, well versed in local history, shared some of **Osage County's unique "Freedom's Frontier" story**, including pro-slavery and abolitionist clashes and mysterious goings on at Harris' Tavern sometimes called Fry P. McGee's Inn, on the Santa Fe Trail. Fry, a pro-slaver, was reported to treat abolitionists fairly, insisting that they be given requested help, fully and in a timely fashion.

John Nichols from the County Criteria Committee distributed **Building and Connecting the Story** with the following **reminders:**

All parts of your story are important whether or not you agree with them.

Present the information and let the visitor decide.

Have your sources available; someone will always want to know where you found a particular piece of information, especially if it is controversial.

Prepare and present **your** unique story. Connect with other sites, but let them tell their own stories.

Connections may be positive or negative.

Sites require **QUALITY** signage, exhibits, and interpretation.

A site should be an experience, not just a stop.

John also distributed partial thematic lists based on submissions from participating counties. He stressed the following: "...only sites with worksheets submitted were included. Many others could and should be included but have not shown themselves to be willing partners."

Judy Billings interjected that first-time attendees at this meeting who have not completed County Criteria Worksheets need to request worksheets and send them to Debbie White.

Name and Logo Usage

A "Bleeding Kansas" Teaching Unit in a trunk, prepared by National Park Service Rangers at Fort Scott in 2004 in recognition of the Territorial Sesquicentennial, was brought to the meeting by Emma Crites. It is distributed by Greenbush, a resource center for southeast Kansas school districts.

Judy pointed out that the Teacher's Guide bears the title "Bleeding Kansas Enduring Struggle for Freedom" which is misleading since the unit content covers only the Kansas Territorial years (1854-1861) and does not include the entire scope of our Enduring Struggle for Freedom Heritage Area. She cautioned that we must be aware and protective of our name and logo usage in places and on products outside of our TKHA/BKNHA organization projects.

Our concept, Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom (Heritage Area), was established at the Bleeding Kansas Summit, developed and written about in our Feasibility Study, and included in the writing of the Bills submitted to Congress. That concept, regarding justice issues related to the Enduring Struggle for Freedom, is open ended, going beyond the Territorial years to the present and future.

TKHA BUSINESS

Judy announced that Carolyn Green has resigned. **Nominating Committee, Diane Niehoff and Bill Freeman** will prepare a list of nominees for new officers.

UGRR Brochure: In final stages of preparation and should be ready for printing soon.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY: Deborah Barker, Ottawa, history@old.depot.museum reported, as follows:

National History Day is a widely recognized program intended to encourage primary research in history by junior and senior high school students. The Kansas State Historical Society sponsors a state contest held annually in Abilene and organizes volunteers to sponsor the district contests throughout the state.

In 2005, this group, TKHA/BKNHA, created a \$50 prize to be awarded to the presentation deemed the best, concerning Bleeding Kansas, on the senior level.

A motion was made by Clif Gordon to approve National History Day prizes to be awarded in 2006 and 2007 (\$50 each year). Kerry Altenbernd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After the motion, Deborah added that by approving prizes for 2006 and 2007, we further promotion of the award and hope that students will be guided toward the topic of Bleeding Kansas, knowing that a special prize exists for it.

SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Kerry Altenbernd shared that the Black Jack Battlefield Trust met with Connie Langham, historian at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Springfield, Missouri, also representative of American Battle Fields Protection Program. She advised us and helped construct a plan for presentation of the Black Jack Battlefield and developing the park.

Kerry also let attendees know about Black Jack Newsletter On-line.
Black Jack clean up January 28th.
Archaeological survey of Battlefield in March.

Martha Parker shared Douglas County connections to Osage County. She encouraged networking.
Martha also talked about the new Education Museum at Clinton Lake.

Rebecca Phipps reminded attendees that Lawrence will be celebrating its 11th annual Civil War in Lawrence Days August 10-21st with national scholars and Mr. Lincoln.

Alexis Radil announced Mahaffie reenactments April 22, 23.

Pottawatomie Massacre Centennial May 20th.

Eileen Robertson distributed copies of *Kansas Traveler*, a new publication in its second year out of Wichita by Susan and John Howland. They offer free event advertising. In the current winter issue, Tim Rues has listed weekly Sunday afternoon 2 pm Bleeding Kansas lectures at Constitution Hall in LeCompton running from January 29 through March 5, 2006.

Sally Hatcher brought greetings from Diann Baynes now in Hillsboro, Texas.
diannb@hillsborochamber.org

Eileen announced Humboldt's Civil War Days June 9-11, 2006. A special Memorial Tribute honoring Territorial and Civil War Civilians and Military will take place **Fri June 9th** at 7 pm in Mount Hope Cemetery. Representatives of Sons of Union and Confederate Veterans will participate along with Eileen's friend, guest speaker Jack Bender of Halstead, Kansas, Civil War Historian. Humboldt's founding residents since May of 1857, who were also present during the Sept 8, 1861, Confederate Raid and Oct 14th Burning, are buried at Mount Hope. **Saturday, June 10:** From 10 am, Raid and Burning reenactments and period plays, authors and sutlers at South Park, formerly Camp Hunter/Logtown, 1862-1865, Army Post established to protect Humboldt from further Confederate attack. 7 pm Civil War dance on the City Square in front of 1866 building now housing Pat Haire's 1800s woodworking machines and working museum. **Sunday, June 11:** conducted tours of Haire's museum; 12 Civil War Sites around town; and Humboldt Historical Museum Complex.

Eileen also announced that **Humboldt's Territorial Sesquicentennial** will be celebrated next year, **2007**, with events each month.

Marci Penner, author of *The Kansas Guidebook for explorers*, recently published, and Director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, will receive the **Distinguished Kansan Award 2006** from Native Sons & Daughters of Kansas, Friday, January 27, 2006, in Topeka.

Visitors to Topeka January 27th can visit Territorial sites and celebrate Kansas Day January 29th. Shawnee County has a new map of Bleeding Kansas.

Elly McCoy suggested that one of the positive things we can do while waiting for designation is create tourism itineraries that meet County Criteria and reflect connections.

Arnold Schofield let us know that in addition to the Bleeding Kansas map already created, he is working on a Civil War Map (a driving map showing Civil War Trails) which he expects will be ready by May 19, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at noon. Lunch was catered by Vassar Playhouse, featuring a variety of creatively delicious homemade soups and salads.

Future Meetings

February 9, 2006	Johnson County Museum
March 9, 2006	Doniphan County, Highland
April 13, 2006	Lecompton
May 11, 2006	Mine Creek
June 8, 2006	Baldwin City
July 13, 2006	Clinton
August 10, 2006	Shawnee County

REMINDER: PLEASE BRING HARD COPIES OF PROPOSED FEBRUARY AGENDA AND JANUARY MINUTES on February 9, 2006. THANK YOU.

Respectfully submitted, Eileen Robertson, Kansas Explorer #1450