Follow our Travels through

Freedom's Frontier
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
On Friday, March 18, the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) staff headed out on a chilly, gray day for the monthly Fieldwork Day.

With Education and Interpretation Manager Liz Hobson behind the wheel, and Executive Director Jim Ogle in the navigator seat, Managing Director Julie McPike and Marketing and Outreach Manager Sonia Smith headed toward our first stop:

**Harry S Truman Birthplace State Historic Site**

to see the small frame house where “The Buck” started, in Lamar, MO. Once there, we met with Park Historic Site Specialist Beth Bazal, with Missouri State Parks, who gave us the deluxe tour.

We started in the Visitor Services building with a look at the guest book, signed at the top by visitor Harry S Truman, April 19, 1959.

Also in the office is a unique timeline, made from a cross-section of the tree Harry’s father planted on the day he was born. (Images 3670-3673). When the tree died, the park staff preserved a piece of it, and used it in an interesting way.

And just in case you were wondering, you can buy a replica of Harry’s “The Buck Stops Here” sign at the gift shop (one of several places in Freedom’s Frontier where you can get one).
In 1884, An Austrian Pine was planted by Harry S. Truman's father to honor his birth, never knowing his son would be a future President of the United States. The state of Missouri acquired the property in 1959. At this time we started taking a special interest in the tree and maintaining it yearly. Over the years the tree developed a common blight and scale disease. The Missouri Department of Conservation germinated the seeds from the birth tree and planted two seedlings which are still thriving on the property today. With sadness we had to remove the tree in 2012. Missouri Department of Conservation assessed the life expectancy of the tree and discovered the tree had met its life expectancy.
We toured the house and grounds, and everyone took pictures of the marker with Harry’s likeness.

Then it was back in the car and off to stop number two, Prairie State Park, in Mindenmines, MO. We arrived just as a group was starting a walk through the prairie, and as staff was busy with programming for other visitors, we quietly roamed the building and checked out the displays.
Here we are at the **Regal Tallgrass Prairie Nature Center**. Here’s a view of the prairie, beautiful even on an overcast, windy day. We didn’t see any live bison out the observation window that overlooks the prairie, but did see these educational exhibits and materials.

Rain or shine, still a pretty prairie!
FFNHA staff does get to stop for lunch breaks, even on fieldwork day, so we popped in at Buzz’s BBQ & Steakhouse in Nevada, MO., before meeting up with museum director Will Tollerton, at the Finis M. Moss building – that also houses the Nevada Public Library – for a tour of the 

Bushwhacker Museum
The Bushwhacker Museum created this exhibit that Jim and Julie are looking at with an Interpretive Grant from Freedom’s Frontier.
Will also took us to the **Historic Bushwhacker Jail**.

Photo caption: “FRED O. and SEPHRONIA (FRONIA) C. DAWES. He was elected sheriff in 1916 and slain in the line of duty July 17, 1919. She was appointed in his place, becoming the first woman sheriff in Missouri.”
Photos: sign that hangs in the jail; Sonia – thinking that this place would be very cold in winter/very hot in summer; men’s cell in the Historic Bushwhacker Jail; food trays – dinner would have been prepared in a kitchen building next door to the jail; the women’s cell – upstairs from the rest of the prisoners, with lots of light; and the lock on the women’s cell door.

Look at that lock. Break out of this jail? I don’t think so.
Our final stop of the day was the John Brown's Vernon County Raid Wayside Marker, at the Lawrence Cemetery.

Jim, Julie, Liz and Sonia had a great day, finding out more about our Partners in Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, and sincerely thank everyone who was generous enough to give them a tour on this trip. Though we are sorry the trip had to end, we will be out and about again next month! Follow our travels!

For more information about Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage, visit: www.freedomsfrontier.org. Information about Partner sites can be found under the “Places to See” tab.