



December 7, 2010

Dear Friends,

Your support for Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) has been invaluable in helping us reach our goals. We have spent much of 2010 getting ready for next year's Sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Civil War. As we reach 2011, we are in a position to help the public understand that the conflict that officially began 150 years ago had its roots in events that took place on our very soil. This conflict made the country what it is today and it is an integral part of our heritage. In 2010 we have:

- Gained approval and the signature of the Secretary of the Interior for the NPS-required Management Plan;
- Presented a historic performance tent and used new outreach display at the Kansas Sampler Festival in Leavenworth, KS in May.
- Facilitated 7 public partnership meetings with an average attendance of 50 throughout the 41-county area with a collective in-kind investment of approximately \$46,000 by those attendees;
- Hosted 2 full-length workshops and 4 hour-long workshops to assist partners with such topics as interpretation, education and project management;
- Presented 34 informational programs to 1,250 people using the Freedom's Frontier video;
- Solicited Location & Event applications and completed 25 site reviews following standards in the Management Plan, with assistance from the Partnership Advisory Committee;
- Selected Imagemakers from Wamego, KS, out of 14 proposals for website redevelopment, with assistance from the Technology Committee. Work is on target for completion of an interactive website that facilitates communication between partners and communicates the stories and connects the sites important to the area and the nation;
- Successfully wrote two grants (Kansas Travel and Tourism and the Southeast Kansas Prosperity Foundation) and secured additional investment (Missouri Division of Tourism) to fund the website redevelopment project.



- Selected J.L. Bruce & Co. from North Kansas City MO, out of 13 proposals for the development of a heritage map, with assistance from the Map Task Force. Work is on target for the completion of a map that communicates the stories and connects the sites and stories important to the area and the nation;
- Made numerous proposals to foundations to fund the map project with decisions pending;
- Established an on-going partnership with the Kansas City Public Library and 7 other partners to undertake an initiative to create an online repository of primary source documents from the Civil War era related to northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas;
- Established an on-going partnership with Symphony in the Flint Hills to feature FFNHA at the event in Wabaunsee County, KS, on Saturday, June 11, 2011;
- Partnered with the Kansas Humanities Council through a grant to develop several Reader's Theatre scripts based on the important heritage stories that connect FFNHA. These programs will be offered to communities in FFNHA (both MO and KS) in 2011.
- Developed an FFNHA advertising concept, offered a cooperative opportunity to partners and placed FFNHA ads with four partners participating in each state in the 2011 Missouri and Kansas Travel Guides;
- Established a social media strategy, integrating Facebook, Twitter and a blog to present FFNHA messages;
- Presented a signature event, featuring Chairwoman Tacha to raise awareness of FFNHA hosted by Kansas City Central Library on Sunday, November 14, 2010;
- Wrote and distributed an RFP for a comprehensive Signage Plan with proposals due in January;

Freedom's Frontier began as a grassroots effort of people who are concerned about our landscape and who understand that we have an important, nationally significant story to share about the struggles over freedom on the frontier, a struggle that shaped our nation's history and that remains relevant today. Board members and partners alike believe that without this effort the important stories of our 41-county heritage may be lost to future generations.



In 2011 we will:

- Unveil the 2010 website and map project;
- Distribute 250,000 maps throughout the area and in response to advertising requests;
- Partner with Symphony in the Flint Hills for a successful event to raise awareness of FFNHA stories;
- Present two educational workshops for partners;
- Begin cell phone tour project to further connect sites and history that appears on the FFNHA map;
- Complete a comprehensive signage plan and begin to raise funds for its implementation;
- Develop an interpretive grant fund and begin implementation;
- Continue to support partners to bring the FFNHA stories to the public.

As we continue to receive federal money through our national status, we are required to show a one-to-one match of local dollars. That's why you are so important to achieve this mission.

We sincerely thank you for your past commitment and hope that you will consider continuing your support of Freedom's Frontier with a year-end contribution to this important work.

May you have a very Happy Holiday!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Dillingham". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

John Dillingham
Vice Chairman