Freedom's Frontier Traveled to the Mid-Continent Public Library for the Thursday, March 14, 2019 Partnership Meeting. The Woodneath Library Center, open in 2013, serves residents in the Kansas City area and welcomes out of town visitors seeking complimentary WiFi. The Library, part of Mid-Continent Public Library, hosts free programs for residents and visitors on a wide variety of topics including presentations by nationally recognized authors, writing and storytelling seminars, storytimes for families, history programs, technology instruction and much more. The Library is named for the wooded area surrounding this lush, 33 acre farmland called the Woodneath Estate which was built by Elbridge Arnold in 1855-56 as a family homestead and farm. One of Mid-Continent Public Library's signature initiatives, The Story Center, will be housed in the historic homestead following its renovation. Woodneath Library Center is conveniently located two minutes west on Highway 152 off I-35, 15 minutes north of Kansas City.
**Telling Your Stories.** We kicked off our 2019 Partner Meetings with a focus on telling your sites' stories to government or other outside organizations. Whether you use the words educating, advocacy, or lobbying, it is all about "how well you tell" that makes a difference. Today's guests talked about ways to more effectively tell your stories.

First up was **Steve Nowak**, Executive Director of the Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, Kansas. Steve provided an update on the three traveling exhibits that University of Kansas Museum Studies students are working on. The students are making progress on their projects – exhibitions dealing with suffragettes in Missouri and Kansas, Native Americans, and Americans with disabilities.

Students participating in this class project have taken their traveling exhibit ideas from concept, to a presentation to Freedom’s Frontier staff, to feedback and additional research with guidance from history experts who'll help them get the stories right. Now they’re moving into the fabrication stage.

We’ll keep you posted on their progress, and let you know when the exhibitions are rolled out, and ready to start traveling!
Missouri Bicentennial Opportunities. Michael Sweeney, Bicentennial Coordinator for the State Historical Society of Missouri discussed community engagement projects, planning local and county commemorations, and other statewide opportunities for exploring Missouri life, history, and culture.

The mission: to promote a better understanding of Missouri and its regions, communities, and people, both past and present. The Missouri Bicentennial provides opportunities for citizens to celebrate, explore, and share perspectives on the state’s rich history and culture.

Bicentennial Alliance
The Bicentennial Alliance is a coalition of statewide non-profit organizations and government agencies working together to develop and promote statewide projects commemorating the Missouri Bicentennial. The organizations listed here are participants.

Highlights from the presentation are in the next few slides. To learn more, contact Michael at (816) 510-4823, or email him at SweeneyMic@shsmo.org. You can also get more information at www.Missouri2021.org.

On social media, look for Facebook and Instagram: @Missouri2021.
How you can help tell Missouri’s stories.

Community Engagement Projects
• What can we do together?

Local and Regional Commemorations
• What will you do in your own community, county, or region?

Statewide Opportunities
• What can you do to explore and celebrate Missouri history, life, and culture?

The State Historical Society of Missouri and Missouri Star Quilt Company are teaming up to create a Missouri Bicentennial Quilt. Using one quilt block from each Missouri county and the independent City of St. Louis, we’re looking to create a quilt featuring the unique characteristics of Missouri culture and style.

My Missouri 2021 invites professional and amateur photographers to capture and share distinctiveness of place. Photographs will be shared online through Missouri 2021 website, social media, and exhibition. A selection will also be added to the permanent Bicentennial manuscript collection. Guidelines are located on the Missouri 2021 website.

Sacred Sunset, Taney County, submitted by Annette Keeter

My Missouri 2021

Bicentennial Quilt

Sacred Sunset, Taney County, submitted by Annette Keeter

Malone Park
Bandstand, Scott County, submitted by Kathy Medley
The online Missouri Encyclopedia will provide users easy access to authoritative information on the history and culture of Missouri. To be comprehensive, the editorial team needs your help. Who are the people and what are the places and events that shaped your community, your county, and your region?

Missouri Community Legacies provides an opportunity for local groups, school classes, and others to document local traditions and creative expressions, meaningful places, and organizations and institutions of significance to communities, counties, and regions around the State. The result will be a “snap shot” of Missouri—built by the people of Missouri.
The Endorsement Program creates a media partnership with local organizations wanting to develop and host their own Bicentennial activities or to brand existing community offerings for the Bicentennial year. The endorsed program or event will be included in a list of endorsed activities on the Missouri 2021 website.

A project of the Missouri Humanities Council, a Bicentennial Alliance partner, the Bicentennial Penny Drive is now taking place in Missouri public elementary and intermediate schools. The goal of the Penny Drive is to raise funds for the conservation of founding state documents in honor of the approaching Bicentennial of Missouri statehood.
Santa Fe Trail is also commemorating 200. The incoming president of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Larry Short, spoke about some of the ways that places along the Santa Fe Trail can help to tell its stories, and commemorate the bicentennial.

Larry stressed that this is not a celebration, but a commemoration, as Native Americans, whose way of life was forever changed as settlers forged trails toward the west, may not feel that a celebration tells their stories.

Missouri joined the Union as the 24th state on August 10, 1821. William Becknell departed Franklin, Missouri on September 1, 1821 on his first journey to Santa Fe. The path he traced became America’s first international highway of commerce!

Multiple organizations will participate in the commemoration that will follow the trail.
Where the Santa Fe and Freedom’s Frontier connect. Larry pointed out that there are Freedom’s Frontier partner sites along Missouri and Kansas points on the Santa Fe Trail. Some of them are pictured here. He mentioned that Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm Historic Site will be participating in the trail’s bicentennial events.
Kicking off where it began. On September 1, 2021, the commemoration will officially begin, at the place where the Santa Fe Trail began. There will be events at Franklin and Arrow Rock, Missouri.
Other stops along the trail. Here’s a few other places where events are already being planned:

**September 4-5, 2021**  
Fort Osage National Historic Landmark  
Sibley, Missouri

**September 23-25, 2021**  
Symposium at Bent’s Fort  
La Junta, Colorado

**November 12-16, 2021**  
Commemorating the end of the trail, on the 200th anniversary of the date Bicknell arrived in new Mexico
Need help depicting your stories? Larry was excited to show off the logo created for the Santa Fe Trail bicentennial. The official logo was designed by Sultan Sultan, of Professor Eric Winter's Graphics Design Class at Avila University. Selected by the SFTA Board from nine submissions by class members.

In addition, the trail association is going to work with students on video, and other projects. Larry suggested that Freedom's Frontier partners with nearby universities or community colleges might try contacting graphic design and video class instructors to find out if they would be willing to have students do classroom work for historic sites.
Why is history relevant? Freedom's Frontier Executive Director Jim Ogle spoke about the importance of framing the essential institutions in our communities, regions, and states. Jim reviewed and answered questions about the History Relevance campaign and how you can use it to help support your story.
The Value of History Statement.

To Ourselves:

IDENTITY » History nurtures personal and collective identity in a diverse world. People discover their place in time through stories of their families, communities, and nation. These stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, and courage and triumph shape people's personal values that guide them through life.

CRITICAL THINKING » History teaches vital skills. Historical thinking requires critical approaches to evidence and argument and develops contextual understanding and historical perspective, encouraging meaningful engagement with concepts like continuity, change, and causation, and the ability to interpret and communicate complex ideas clearly and coherently.
The Value of History Statement.

To Our Communities:

**VIBRANT COMMUNITIES** » History is the foundation for strong, vibrant communities. A place becomes a community when wrapped in human memory as told through family stories, tribal traditions, and civic commemorations as well as discussions about our roles and responsibilities to each other and the places we call home.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** » History is a catalyst for economic growth. Communities with cultural heritage institutions and a strong sense of historical character attract talent, increase tourism revenues, enhance business development, and fortify local economies.
The Value of History Statement.

To Our Future:

ENGAGED CITIZENS » History helps people envision a better future. Democracy thrives when individuals convene to express opinions, listen to others, and take action. Weaving history into discussions about contemporary issues clarifies differing perspectives and misperceptions, reveals complexities, grounds competing views in evidence, and introduces new ideas; all can lead to greater understanding and viable community solutions.

LEADERSHIP » History inspires leaders. History provides today’s leaders with role models as they navigate through the complexities of modern life. The stories of persons from the past can offer direction to contemporary leaders and help clarify their values and ideals.

LEGACY » History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. Historical knowledge is crucial to protecting democracy. By preserving authentic and meaningful documents, artifacts, images, stories, and places, future generations have a foundation on which to build and know what it means to be a member of the civic community.

Find all of this, learn more about endorsing the Value Statement, and get a toolkit at www.historyrelevance.com.
Reauthorization and framing the story of FFNHA. If you’ve been to any of our meetings lately, you’ve probably heard the words “sunset” and “reauthorization” multiple times. Managing Director Julie McPike outlined how the heritage area is reaching out to gain reauthorization of Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, and gain more funding as well.

Julie gave an overview of the ways that staff has been talking about reauthorization with legislators on both sides of the state line, and in Washington, D.C., and provided a case study for getting to know your elected officials.

In February, staff attended the Travel Industry Association of Kansas Destination Statehouse in Topeka, where they met with legislators and/or their assistants, to deliver an annual report, map and a letter asking for a letter of support for reauthorization, and to pass a resolution of support in Kansas.

In March, they repeated the process on the other side of the state line. After missing the Missouri Travel Council’s Capitol Day for Tourism because of snow concerns in February, they arrived in Jefferson City to a not-so-scenic view of the Capitol, which was wrapped to shelter the scaffolding surrounding the building for renovations.

Efforts in Missouri were greeted with some immediacy, as Rep. Donna Pfautsch introduced the resolution in support of Freedom’s Frontier reauthorization, H.R. 873.
**Telling our story in D.C.** Directors Jim Ogle and Julie McPike, and Grants Coordinator Johnny Szlauderbach attended an Alliance of National Heritage Areas Annual Meeting and advocacy discussions. While there, they met with legislators and/or their assistants and asked their support for three efforts:

- H.R. 1049, NHA Program Legislation, which would bring all NHAs under one piece of legislation, and reauthorize all together.
- Robust funding ($32 million) for the Heritage Partnership Program.

The good news about H.R. 1049 is that it already has more than 62 sponsors, including cosponsors: Rep. Cleaver, Missouri, and Rep. Watkins, Kansas.

If you would like to help tell the Freedom’s Frontier advocacy story, at the Federal level, you can contact House members Hartzler, Graves, Marshall, Davids, and Estes; and Senators Roberts, Blunt, Hawley, and ask them to become cosponsors of H.R. 1049 and support reauthorization and robust funding. You can contact Congressmen Cleaver and Watkins, and Senator Moran for adding their support.

Ask your representatives in Topeka and Jefferson City to lend their support by writing letters to those listed above. In Jefferson City, also ask for support of Missouri H.R. 873, the resolution in support of Freedom’s Frontier’s reauthorization.

Ask your county commission and city council to pass a resolution in support of Freedom’s Frontier reauthorization, and even your organization’s board could pass a resolution in support of Freedom’s Frontier reauthorization to share upwards.

For more information about how you can help, or for a draft letter to help you get started, ask Julie McPike.
**The 2021 Club.** We’re starting a new club as we work towards reauthorization. For more information about it, and when you can join, read the *Monday Minute*, the Freedom’s Frontier weekly, emailed newsletter. If you aren’t getting the newsletter, but want to, email ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org, and request that we add your email to our list.

Here’s a quick rundown of the membership levels:

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Freedom's Frontier Traveler</td>
<td>$120/year</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Monthly E-newsletter with pdf calendar of events</td>
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<td>Periodic “Blaze Your Own Trail” articles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Challenge Coin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom's Frontier Trail Blazer</td>
<td>$240/year</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Challenge Coin</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Passport Card with chance to win a prize</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freedom’s Struggle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Has someone in your family postponed a wedding for FFNHA? Well Jim Rehard, Northern Missouri Supervisor for State Parks, has a son who did just that. Jim was scheduled to be involved in a Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas Border tour for attendees of the American Association for State and Local History in Kansas City last September, on the same weekend the wedding was to take place. His son graciously pushed back the wedding date, and the tour went on as planned. Now that’s dedication. That’s just one of the many reasons Jim was presented with the (Judy) Billings Most Valuable Partner. He wasn’t able to attend the Freedom’s Frontier Annual Awards Luncheon in January, so he was given his award at this meeting.

Riley County Historical Museum Director Cheryl Collins, who has served as the Partner Advisory Committee Chair, and supported Freedom’s Frontier in other ways, was our other Billings MVP, and received her award in January, at the lunch.
Building your outreach. Managing Director Julie McPike presented a short case study on relationship and outreach building. Using Freedom’s Frontier as an example, Julie talked about, and presented a timeline of the heritage area’s contact with then Representative Yoder:

2011 – 2018: Met with staffer in Congressman Yoder’s office (*Establish a relationship.*)
2015: Invited Congressman to visit with camp at Mahaffie (*Demonstrate work.*)
2016: Asked Congressman to write letter of support for Quindaro NHL grant (*Make an easy ask for help.*)
2016: Arranged showcase at request of Congressman (*Be responsive! Let others share their stories.*)
2018: Congressman introduced legislation for National Commemorative Site (*Work together! Provide a platform!*)
2019: Begin establishing a relationship with Congresswoman Sharice Davids

This is an ongoing process, of getting to know your elected officials, and both telling them the stories of your organization, and finding out how you can help them to connect with your organization – and through it, constituents in your community.

If you would like more information, contact Julie at jmcpike@freedomsfrontier.org.
Inside the story center. One of the nicest parts of partner meetings is that our generous hosts are always happy to provide a facility tour. For this meeting, there were two tours. Both the historic Woodneath house, and the Espresso Book Machine were on the tour.

If you’re not familiar with the book machine, you can find the details at the link below the pictures at right. You might remember that Freedom’s Frontier used the press to print on demand copies of Freedom’s Struggle.

The house is under renovation as an extension of the Woodneath Library Center, with spaces for book discussions, and other small group programs. Linda Railsback, who led our tour, shared information about the house, which was built in 1855. In 2008, the family that owned the house, and surrounding property where Woodneath sits, sold it to the Mid-Continent Library. Woodneath was the historic name of the house and property. The house has been on the National Register since 1977.

www.mymcpl.org/story-center/publishing/woodneath-press
Save the Date

Wednesday, May 1 – Deadline for Interpretive Grant consultation. Interpretive Grant applications due Wednesday, May 15. Ask Lexi Ray your Interpretive Grant questions. Application Guidelines

Wednesday, May 15 – Deadline for Professional Development applications. (Submit well in advance of the event you wish to attend.) Program Overview Scholarship Application

Thursday, May 9 – Partner Meeting, Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. If you have questions, contact Sonia Smith at ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org.

Check our calendar for more upcoming events – and add yours! www.freedomsfrontier.org

Mark your calendar for the next Partner Meeting. There’s usually a chance to tour the facility where the meeting is being held. In this case, one part of the tour went through the historic house that’s attached to the Woodneath Library Center. And then, of course, there’s also all the information, networking and sharing that happens at our Partner Meetings.
Find our contact information online at:
www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Contact, and on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FreedomsFrontier

From left: Jim, Sonia, Doug, Johnny, Lexi, and Julie.