For our Thursday, May 11, 2017 Partnership meeting, we gathered at the Tonganoxie Community Historical Society’s museum complex.

Tonganoxie was once home to the largest dairy farm in Kansas. The historical site is located on 10 acres of that original dairy. The buildings include: the Fairchild/Knox barn, a 1929 dairy barn with milk parlor and hay barn, silo, and working windmill; the Honey Valley School, a 1916 one room school house; the Reno Methodist Church, a 1918 church; and a 1936 Fire Pumper Truck.

Places to see in in Leavenworth County, Kansas, (all of which can be found under Places to See on our webpage – http://www.freedomsfrontier.org):

- Frontier Military Historic Byway http://bit.ly/2qRx2rk

Please visit our Partner community and find out about shared stories in Leavenworth County, Kansas!
Welcome and Introductions.

Adam Newhard, Partnership Coordinator (FFNHA) welcomed first time attendees to the meeting. Each was invited to provide an introduction, and presented with a Freedom’s Frontier challenge coin.

Joining us for the first time today were: Don Jolley, Grinter Place State Historic Site; Ray Stockman, Chairman, Tonganoxie Historical Society; Jeri Sanders, Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City; and Scott Davis, Freedom’s Frontier—our newest Youth Programs Assistant for Camps.

Steve Nowak, Watkins Museum of History in Lawrence, Kansas, though not a newbie to partner meetings, was announced as the new chair of the Freedom’s Frontier Advisory Committee. More information about the Advisory Committee can be found at http://bit.ly/2rx83dE. The partners listed here are happy to talk to you about issues in the heritage area, and convey your concerns to other committee members and discuss with Freedom’s Frontier staff. If you would be interested in serving on this committee, contact us!

Adam reminded partners to register by the deadline for upcoming partner meetings so that he can turn in accurate numbers for seating and catering. With more than 214 partner organizations in the heritage area, it makes meetings easier to organize when he knows in advance who will be coming, and expecting lunch.

He announced that he will be sending out a survey about what you want as topics for upcoming workshops at partnership meetings.
Tonganoxie Community Historical Society. Kris Roberts, President of the historical society, said that the organization began in 1981, and though there were people in the community concerned about preserving the history, the historical society did not own any property then.

Today, there is a museum complex located on ten acres of the original Frank Fairchild Dairy Farm, established in 1884. The museum is housed in the hay barn and milking parlor. There are still milking cows at the site today. The site also is home to the 1916 Honey Valley School house, the 1918 Reno Methodist Church, and a 1936 fire pumper truck.

The museum has an extensive collection of Native American Indian artifacts from the area, cataloged by Kansas State University. The oldest of these artifacts is about 8,000 years old. Tonganoxie was named for Chief Tonganoxie, of the Delaware, who was not recognized by the federal government as an official chief. *(There is a quiz answer here. Questions at end of presentation.)*

For Memorial Day this year, the historical society is offering at the museum site on Monday, May 29, 8-11 a.m.: a breakfast of biscuits and gravy, and coffee; a Flag Ceremony by the VFW; special displays to honor servicemen and the history of Memorial Day; and flowers available for those on their way to the cemeteries. The museum will be open.

Deaf Cultural Center’s Future and Vision. Kim Anderson, Suzanne Dennis, two of the center’s board members, and their interpreters shared the information that the center will soon have a new name. As part of the long-term strategic planning that the center has been doing since the retirement of the executive director, there has been some redefining of the direction. http://www.deafculturalcenter.org/ There will be a gala on September 30, to officially announce that the center will become the Museum of Deaf History, Art and Culture.

Changes are happening to help the museum share stories about deaf culture that may not always be comfortable. They will include journeys through colonialism, economic exploitation, and systematic oppression to compassion and understanding.

They shared a 30-second video clip (http://bit.ly/2q7LhZU) about the most abhorred man in deaf history – Alexander Graham Bell – to highlight one of the struggles imposed on deaf children and adults. This is a story that will be shared in the museum. Bell, who married a deaf woman, nonetheless did not have good feelings for the deaf community. He thought that keeping the deaf from learning sign language would force them to learn to attain oral language skills, and that they should exclusively use oral language.

Deaf culture is visual. Deaf people experience their world through their eyes. If you would like to learn about this way of “hearing”, you can come to a Patio Party on the third Thursday of the month (calendar http://bit.ly/2rPrXgp) for a presentation on deaf history, and interaction with members of your community, who happen to be deaf. You can also attend hands-on workshops (http://bit.ly/2q7zOJy).

StEPs is a self-study program designed to help museums, especially small sites, to assess their collections, policies and practices, operations, and strategic planning. The StEPs workbook is broken down into six sections: Mission, Vision, & Governance, Audience, Interpretation, Stewardship of Collections, Stewardship of Historic Structures & Landscapes, and Management.

Cheryl stressed that sites can use the workbook at their own pace, and there are many ways to approach it. Getting boards involved with the program can help them understand what it is that the museum/site really does.

Enrollment is a one-time fee of $175 that never expires. In order to get the bronze, silver and gold recognition certificates, organizations using StEPs need to maintain their membership in AASLH ($115 for an institutional member). Once the AASLH membership is paid, Freedom’s Frontier has grant money to pay your StEPs enrollment (Quiz question?). Contact Liz Hobson at ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org.

On a side note, someone accidentally took the StEPs workbook that belongs to Riley County Historical Society home with them from the partner meeting. **If you have it, please contact Cheryl and return it!**
**Board of Trustees Report.** Jody Craig, Chair of the FFNHA Board of Trustees, told the gathered heritage area partners that Congress did pass a continuing resolution, but that it is still very important to let your Congressmen and Senators know that you would like them to do more. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA), of which FFNHA Managing Director is the Secretary, is working very hard to get as many delegates as possible signed on to HR1002, the Heritage Area Act of 2017, that would bring all 49 heritage areas under the same legislation. Though that may not happen this year, with all that is going on in American politics, you can go online at www.freedomsfrontier.org and click on the large button that says “Show Your Support” to find out how to request that your representation in Washington, DC support robust funding for heritage areas.

**Cheryl Collins**, the out-going Chair of the Advisory Committee, listens as Board of Trustees Chair Jody Craig provides a board update.
Directors’ Reports. In the last week of April, Executive Director Jim Ogle and Managing Director Julie McPike traveled to Yuma, Arizona, to the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area [http://www.yumaheritage.com/] for National Park Service Sustainability Training – both financial and community sustainability.

Julie explained that Yuma Crossing NHA tells the story of where the Colorado River passes through Yuma, and how the wetlands there have been restored since 1999. By visiting the Yuma Crossing NHA website, you can learn more about how the area was taken from dry desert back to a thriving wetland. The stories of the city, Native Americans, and the river all have relevance to Yuma Crossing.

Beside getting to roam this beautiful land, the people gathered from various NHAs for this training talked about federal funding. The omnibus spending bill passed recently set the 2017 funding for NHAs at the same level as 2016. HR1002, the National Heritage Area Act of 2017 would make NHAs a program within the National Park Service and unify all heritage areas under common legislation.

The FFNHA authorizing legislation will expire in 2021. In the past, NHAs that had authorizing legislation that expired have been reauthorized, but recently, that hasn’t necessarily been the case. Augusta Canal, Essex National Heritage Area, and South Carolina National Heritage Corridor were not reauthorized.

In the past, Cleaver, Graves and Hartzler, who represent Missouri, have signed on to the bill to create a single program for heritage areas. Currently, Jenkins and Marshall, representing Kansas have signed on. We will be meeting with Congressman Kevin Yoder later today, and may be able to convince him to sponsor HR1002 as well. Anyone who would like to ask their representatives or senators to add their support to this, and to support robust funding for heritage areas in the 2018 budget can get information on how to do so from the front page of our website, or ask Julie Mcpike at jmcpike@freedomsfrontier.org.

Jim said that it was a contentious meeting, as town hall meetings across the nation have recently been, with people sometimes screaming at their congresspeople.

Our best way to tell stories at town halls may be to do it down the road, when anger over some of the issues like health care have subsided, and issues are resolved. Some partners and staff learned recently that getting into town halls can be difficult, as some who tried to get onto conference calls for Hartler and Yoder did not get to participate. However, when we can get that message heard in town halls, through letters, calls and emails, it will resonate. The representatives and senators realize that for every constituent that speaks out about heritage areas, there are many others who care about them too.

We will send alerts through Monday Minute and other Constant Contact news alerts when we learn of opportunities for contacting our Missouri and Kansas delegates, and we will provide ways to let them know that NHAs are important.

In March, we presented a forum highlighting Freedom's Frontier activity in Rep. Lynn Jenkins district. She came to the Carnegie Building in Lawrence and spoke with partners and staff during a walk and talk showcase. She was surprised at what was going on in Freedom's Frontier. It was effective to have the 3-5 minute presentations, that included tactile elements she could touch. Today, we’ll host Rep. Yoder in Quindaro, to let him see what projects are happening in his district. Some of the booths he’ll see: National Historic Landmarks Effort, KCK Public Library, Quindaro Oral History Project, Quindaro Symposium, Quindaro Partners, Race Project KC, Indian Creek Trail Interpretation, FFNHA Youth Camp, Quindaro Press, and the Freedom’s Frontier brochure kiosk.

Representative Lynn Jenkins at the Carnegie Building.
Education & Interpretation Manager’s Report. The Greenbush Anywhere project that was presented at the March meeting is moving forward. Education and Interpretation Manager Liz Hobson reminded partners that this is an expansion of the Greenbush program into social studies and history. She is meeting with representatives from Greenbush to work on the pilot program with four sites. If you are interested in having your site involved in interactive distance learning please contact Liz at ehobson@freedomsfrontier.org.

Greenbush will provide training and resources. You would provide the history, and someone to tell the story to schoolchildren in the Greenbush virtual classroom.

Interpretive Grant Applications, due May 15, are coming in, and reviewers will be needed. If you’d like to review grants for a future grant cycle, contact Liz.

Liz said that there are some traveling exhibits that you could have at your site including: Enslaved by Freedom; Making History: Kansas City and the Rise of Gay Rights; Coming to Missouri; Hunting Freedom, an exhibit about the end of slavery on the Missouri-Kansas border. If you are interested in showing any of these exhibits, please contact Liz for information.

Caitlyn Eckard was not at this meeting, but she was in the Columbia Daily Tribune with the exhibit she designed, Coming to Missouri: German Migration in the 19th Century. This and other traveling exhibits can travel to your site. (Photo, Jeff Fox/Examiner)
**Signage Report.** Exciting signage news! Missouri State Parks has installed the first directional sign at a signage pilot project site in Bates County, Missouri, the Battle of Island Mound State Historic Site! *(This might be important in the quiz!)*

One of the most frustrating things that FFNHA Signage Coordinator Doug Pickert reports on is the continuing effort to get KDOT to agree to put the National Park Service Arrowhead on the heritage area boundary signs, as Missouri has already done. But he is making slow and steady progress on this and other aspects of the signage program.

He mentioned that the following sites have recently had Freedom’s Frontier Partner Site exterior signs delivered to them:

- Topeka Rotary Park and Constitution Hall
- Clay County Historic Sites
- Eudora Community Museum
- Territorial Capital Museum, Lecompton Historical Society
- Marla Quilts, Inc., African American Quilt Museum
- University of St. Mary, Leavenworth
- Black Jack Battlefield

And these sites got window clings:

- Dole Institute of Politics
- Brown v. Board National Historic Site
- Wabaunsee County Historical Society

For more of Doug’s update, scroll through his meeting slides.
SIGNAGE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

1. FEDERAL & STATE HIGHWAY SIGNAGE
   • MODOT UPDATE
   • KDOT UPDATE

2. DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE – PILOT PROJECTS
   • BATES COUNTY & MAHAFFIE

3. PARTNER SITES (ON-SITE)
   • EXTERIOR SIGNS AND WINDOW CLINGS
FEDERAL AND STATE HIGHWAY SIGNAGE
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE

- 25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS IN KS AND MO
- FFNHA HAS REQUESTED USE OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE “ARROWHEAD” LOGO
  - MODOT HAS APPROVED USE OF THE NPS LOGO
  - INITIAL RESPONSE WAS “NO” IN KANSAS; ASKING FOR RECONSIDERATION, w/ NPS SUPPORT
- NO INCLUSION OF FFNHA LOGO
  - REVISED RULING (via MODOT) – FHWA STATES THAT LOGOS ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE
MISSOURI BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – NORTH SECTION
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – MODOT UPDATE

• 25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS
  • LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY 3rd-PARTY SIGNAGE ADMINISTRATOR. NO ISSUES/PROBLEMS NOTED.

• FINAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE NPS LOGO.

• INSTALLATION SCHEDULE – 6-8 WEEKS AFTER DELIVERY OF SIGNED AGREEMENTS AND PAYMENT. ESTIMATE JUNE INSTALLATION.
MODOT BOUNDARY SIGNAGE CONCEPTS - REVISED

NEW DESIGN w/ NPS LOGO
KANSAS BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – SOUTH SECTION
BOUNDARY SIGNAGE – KDOT UPDATE

• 25 PRIORITY LOCATIONS
  • KDOT IS PUTTING TOGETHER COST ESTIMATES, WHICH COULD ARRIVE AT ANY TIME.
  • INITIAL RESPONSE TO USE OF NPS LOGO WAS NEGATIVE. FFNHA IS STILL PURSUING THE NPS LOGO INCLUSION, INCLUDING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM NPS.
  • KDOT IS REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL RULING FROM THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION.
BATES COUNTY

• INSTALLATION TIMELINE
  • MODOT HIGHWAY R.O.W. AND/OR PRIVATE SITES
    • LETTER SENT BY CITY OF BUTLER TO MODOT, REQUESTING SIGNAGE WITHIN CITY LIMITS. MODOT HAS DENIED INITIAL REQUEST.
    • PURSUING PLAN “B” (ADJACENT PRIVATE PROPERTY).
    • PLANNING MEETING WITH MODOT SET FOR JUNE 7.
MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP AND FARM
• ADDITIONAL PARTNER SITES REMOVED (PER CITY REQUEST)
• REVIEW/APPROVAL PROCESS UNDERWAY
  • CITY OF OLATHE CONDUCTING INTERNAL REVIEW
  • INITIAL RESPONSE FROM OLATHE WAS THE SIGNAGE WOULD COMPETE WITH THEIR SIGNAGE SYSTEM.
  • FFNHA RECENTLY SUBMITTED SCALED-BACK PLAN w/ LOWER SIGN HEIGHTS TO ADDRESS CITY CONCERNS; AWAITING CITY REVIEW AND RESPONSE.
PARTNER SITE SIGNAGE (ON-SITE)

WINDOW CLINGS – NOW AVAILABLE!
• 9”X4” ($10) or 18”X8” ($15); OTHER SIZES MAY BE ORDERED.
  • CLEAR OR WHITE BACKGROUND
**Communications and Marketing Manager’s Report.** If you would like Sonia to distribute fliers and brochures about your programs to the families that will be attending the U.S.A. Track and Field Junior Olympics in Lawrence, Kansas, July 23-30, 2017, please get information to her by June 1 to give her time to start publicizing your events.

You can also get your information out via social media. On Twitter, use the hashtags #UnmistakeablyLawrence, #FFNHA, #USATF and Tweet about your site’s special events. Some families will tack on days prior to the event dates listed above, or after those dates, as family vacation time. FFNHA has the destination management organization (DMO) tent reserved 2-6 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, and will have a 10 X 10 tent dedicated to information about the heritage area and partners. Up to 8,000 families will stay in hotels in Lawrence, KC, Topeka, Olathe, Overland Park, Lenexa, Bonner Springs and other local communities. Moms are trip planners; interests include dining, history, sightseeing, sports. Do you have sports displays, especially pertinent to FFNHA themes/track and field that could go up in July? Let Sonia know at ssmit@freedomsfrontier.org if you have special exhibits that she can promote, or ideas for that week, and she will continue to update you on what we do to help get some of those visitors to go to our partner sites. ExPlore Lawrence has a tool kit at [http://bit.ly/2rPwZtI](http://bit.ly/2rPwZtI).

We are starting a new social media campaign called #FreedomsFrontierFridays. In Monday Minute we’ll announce Friday hashtag topic. On Friday, join in! Use the hashtag on Facebook post, Twitter (or any other place where you might use a hashtag) and let us know what you’re doing that corresponds with the topic. Include the hashtags #FreedomsFrontierFridays. The first #FreedomsFrontierFridays topic is #HistoricTrails. There will be a reminder in the Monday Minute newsletter post.
Disaster Response! For the third, and final, session of our workshop series on Emergency Preparedness, Whitney Baker, KU Libraries Conservation Specialist, discussed how to protect your collections in the event of a disaster.

Whitney listed Four Cs of Disasters: Call for help. Channel water away from collections. Cover shelves with plastic. Carry materials to a designated safe place. The Four Cs can’t always be done in the case of a disaster, and you should always put the safety of people above the safety of collections. You should also have a disaster plan before the disaster. You can find templates online, so you can have a starting point and not “reinvent the wheel.”

Some other things to help you be disaster ready might include: making sure that staff and volunteers know where to find disaster kits (a storage tub with things you might need works fine). Your kits might contain scissors, plastic sheeting, buckets, tape, your phone tree, a copy of your disaster plan and , and other things unique to your site.


Provide training on things like how to use the fire extinguisher and when to use it. Think about contracting with a disaster company such as Polygon or Belfer Property Restoration. Understand your insurance. What does it cover? What doesn’t it? What should you do before you file a claim?

Whitney showed the group a disaster wheel that can be a good resource, and mentioned the Field Guide to Emergency Response, which includes information on things like: how to deal with bleeding dyes in textiles, wet iron, dealing with hazardous materials. She said that you can get 24-hour assistance by calling (202) 661-8068 for the National Heritage Responders, who can assist with advice and referrals to companies to help you salvage collections items. (Continued on next slide.)
First Steps in a Disaster.

Start your call tree, gather supplies, assign roles – matched with skills, plan and breathe.

As you assign roles, decide who will talk to the media, and what needs to be immediately conveyed, as well as when to provide updates.

Assess the situation. Does it call for getting people immediately out of the building. Use your exit plan. Health and safety of personnel comes first.

What is going on with the building structure? Evaluate exterior, interior, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, elevators, stairs, etc.

Assess the collections. What types of materials do you have? Organic/Inorganic? What kind of damage are you dealing with? Where is it located? How much is damaged? Can you contain the damage? Photograph everything.

Keep things as cold as possible to keep mold and mildew away from collections.

Recovery may include removing standing water, containing the spread of water, use of A/C and/or fans to dry things. Reduce humidity, and get things dry. Ceilings may need weep holes to help drain the water. Some things are best dried slowly.

Consider what will happen to items while your post-disaster renovation happens. How do you improve your structure.

What went well? What needs improvement? What are the next steps? (Continued on next slide.)
Tips.

1. ID staff. Make sure that everyone who will be working on your site post-disaster has ID. Whether you use some type of photo ID, or just cheap bracelets and nametag stickers, make sure you know who is onsite, and that they are supposed to be there.

2. Keep track of the number of hours people work, whether they are paid staff or volunteers. Have sign in sheets.

3. Train staff and volunteers for the job you want them to do. Make sure everyone knows what job they are doing. Keep the shifts short. Have debriefings after every shift.

4. Harness the photo-taking tendencies of people on the site. Create a collection spot for photos so that you can choose which photos to share with media.

5. Consider the mental health of workers. Make sure you provide a lot of water for them to drink. Provide food and beverages for your workers.


If you would like more information about the program content of partner meetings, contact Adam Newhard at anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org
**Partner Meeting Quiz.** Five questions were asked about the partner meeting, and meeting attendees submitted their answers for a chance at a drawing.

The questions are below. Find the answers elsewhere in this report.

1. The community of Tonganoxie was named after a chief of what tribe of Native Americans?
2. What language did Alexander Graham Bell want banned from the deaf community?
3. After you’ve paid for your American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) membership, what organization has a grant to pay for your enrollment in StEPs?
4. Where did Jim and Julie go in April for Alliance of National Heritage Areas training?
5. Where did a Freedom’s Frontier directional sign recently get installed?

The first three people (who were not able to attend the meeting in person) to correctly answer the questions by sending an email to Communications and Marketing Manager Sonia Smith, at ssmith@freedomsfrontier.org, will receive a prize. Submit your answers with the email subject line Partner Meeting Quiz. Include your name, site, and a mailing address.

The Kansas City History Trivia Night will be at the Alexander Majors Barn, with a second trivia night in September at the Kansas City Museum.


If you have questions about the meeting, contact Partnership Coordinator Adam Newhard, (785) 856-3634, or at anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org.
Save the Date


**Wednesday, June 14** – Board of Trustees Meeting, Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS

**Thursday, July 1** – Partner Meeting, Bushwhacker Museum, Nevada, MO. If you have questions, contact Partnership Coordinator Adam Newhard at anewhard@freedomsfrontier.org.

**Tuesday, August 1** – Deadline for Interpretive Grant consultation. Interpretive Grant applications due **Tuesday, August 15**. Ask Liz Hobson your Interpretive Grant questions.

Check our calendar for more upcoming events – and add yours!

[www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org)
Photographer Jeff Hobson took this photos of your FFNHA staff. You can also find this photo on our Contact page at www.freedomsfrontier.org/pages/Contact, and on our Facebook page at http://bit.ly/2rMGOZx.

From left: Liz, Doug, Jim, Julie, Sonia and Adam.