

Draft FFNHA Statement of National Significance

(April 30, 2008)

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area is nationally significant for its association with important historical periods of the Nation and its people; major events, persons and groups that contributed substantively to the Nation's history; and transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in military actions, settlement, migration and commerce. During the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century, this region was a crossroads where peoples with varying definitions of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" collided, inciting and fueling the bloodiest conflict ever fought on American soil — the Civil War. The events have shaped the way the people in the region address the ongoing struggles that continue to re-define the nation's meaning of "freedom."

From the time of Missouri statehood in 1821 and the setting up of the "Indian Line" by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun in 1825 until the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, the border between the present-day states of Kansas and Missouri marked the boundary between Euro-American and Native American settlement in the United States. In the early nineteenth century, while mostly Northern and European pioneers poured into the vast new lands of the Northwest Territory and northern reaches of the Louisiana Territory, their Southern counterparts moved into the region later named "Missouri." For forty years after Missouri became a territory in 1812, Southern expansion northwest was stalled by what is now the Missouri-Kansas border. Because of the policy of Indian Removal and the establishment of the new territory for white settlement, this border marked the boundary between the "permanent Indian Frontier" in present day Kansas and white settlement in Missouri.

In 1821, Missouri was granted statehood and, as part of the hotly debated Missouri Compromise, entered the union as a slave state while Maine was admitted as a free state to maintain political balance. The compromise further stated that all of the Louisiana Purchase territory north of the southern boundary of Missouri (with the exception of Missouri itself) would be free, while slavery would be permitted to exist south of or below Missouri's southern border. This placed Missouri, the northernmost slave state, in an exposed and vulnerable geographic position surrounded on several sides by free states, especially as the debate over the extent and the boundaries of the slavery system intensified in the years leading up to the Civil War.

Federal law prohibited permanent white settlement in Indian Territory, with the exception of religious missions, white pioneers, explorers, and traders. The Euro-Americans that did travel through or settle in Indian Territory during this time—many from Missouri—became increasingly familiar with the land to the west. Three nationally significant trails associated with westward expansion were developed during the first half of the 19th century, the Santa Fe Trail, the Oregon Trail, and the California Trail stretched from Missouri through Kansas. The Oregon and California trails began in Independence, Missouri and this region was also a primary jumping off point for the Santa Fe Trail. These trails served as vital transportation routes for settlers, traders and prospectors in the pre-railroad west. Yet, Kansas was among the places to which a number of Native American peoples had been forcibly resettled, then later pressured to "remove" to other parts of Indian territory. The Native American "Trail of Tears" and the later "Trail of Blood on Ice" ultimately connected to Kansas and impacted Missouri.

The thousands of wagons and animals also stressed the regional ecology and its support of those Indian cultures that remained. The significant increase of wagon and animal traffic across the region led to the rapid deforestation of river and stream valleys as the pioneers sought forage and firewood—a rare commodity on the plains. The depleted valleys provided to be a great loss to the indigenous Indian tribes who relied on them for shelter during the fierce winter months.

The westward expansion and mingling of cultures soon turned to intrigue. Perhaps this land was more than the “Great American Desert.” The less-vegetated landscape of the Great Plains might indicate less precipitation – but would also require less effort to place into cultivation than the forested lands to the east. By the mid 19th century, the lure of a new life and opportunities in the western frontier proved too enticing to ignore. Additionally, the lure of wealth in California increased the desire to build railroads across Indian territory and become wealthy through land speculation. White pioneers of all persuasions pressured Congress to open the Indian frontier for white settlement. In 1854, Congress finally succumbed to the pressure, passing the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Act was controversial for many reasons. First, it opened Kansas to white settlement before the new territory was surveyed and Indian treaties were negotiated, resulting in a culture of squatting and land disputes. Second, it nullified the Missouri Compromise by calling for popular sovereignty on the issue of slavery, placing the slavery status of the new territories in the hands of the people who were willing to give their lives or pay others to do so to extend the reach of their influence.

Uncertainty over land ownership in advance of the election in the Kansas territory led to unconventional and, in some cases, illegal actions. Representatives of both sides, from as far as Massachusetts and Alabama, provided aid to settlers in an effort to swing the vote. Missourians crossed the border in large numbers to vote illegally in the Kansas elections. When the first vote resulted in a pro-slavery government, free-staters denounced it as fraudulent and established a competing free-state government. At the time, the establishment of a free-state government was both illegal and treason as this government was not considered by pro-slavery national leaders to have officially won general support in the territory.

Both sides resorted to violence. A pro-slavery raid on Lawrence, Kansas on May 21, 1856, resulted in a tremendous loss of property including the destruction of the presses for two free-soil newspapers and a hotel serving the New England Emigrant Aid Company. Just three days later, John Brown’s execution of five unarmed proslavery settlers along Pottawatomie Creek further escalated the violence from looting and destruction to murder. These events marked the onset of years of violent guerilla warfare along the Kansas-Missouri border that garnered national headlines about “Bleeding Kansas,” focusing national attention on this heated border dispute and ultimately helping to precipitate and fuel the Civil War.

Americans closely monitored the events through national news coverage and public speeches. The slavery issue, brought to light by the Border War between Kansas and Missouri, became a central national concern with the role of the new Republican Party in the 1860 presidential election. Abraham Lincoln’s victory intensified the rift, hastening Southern Secession.

Although Missouri did not formally secede from the Union, the state was split between the Union and Confederate causes. Kansas remained decidedly on the side of the Union, becoming the first state to recruit African-Americans to serve in the Union Army. A unit that would become known as the “Tricolor Brigade” included blacks, whites and Indians, some of whom had followed Opothleyahola, a Loyal Muskogee, from the South to Kansas at the start of the war. The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry was the first “colored” infantry to see combat at Island Mound in Bates County in Missouri.

As the Civil War escalated, border tensions only further intensified. Whereas Missourians enlisted in both the Union and Confederate Armies, some Missourians, like William Quantrill, formed their own militias. Jayhawker James H. Lane formed the Kansas Brigade, a Union infantry regiment that employed guerilla tactics to counter the militias. In response to three years of Jayhawker raids on homes, businesses, and families in western Missouri, William Quantrill and his militia responded with a second sacking of Lawrence in 1863. The Union Army’s attempts to round up bushwhackers in Missouri was stymied in part by the support Missouri residents provided to the bushwhackers, who were viewed as local protectors in extremely unsettled times. In addition, the hilly and heavily vegetated landscape in western Missouri afforded ample opportunities for the bushwhackers to hide. The Union Army ultimately responded by issuing Order No. 11, which called for the unprecedented evacuation and burning of entire counties along Missouri’s western border. This part of western Missouri became known as the “Burnt District”

because of the extent of the devastation in the region. Despite the escalating violence in the region, the settlement of the west continued to move forward with this region as a critical jumping off point. The legendary but short-lived Pony Express established a transcontinental communications system between 1861 and 1862 by establishing a link between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California that reduced the transit time to ten days.

Although the Civil War brought freedom-related issues to the fore, it did not resolve them. In his November 1863 Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln referred to this “*unfinished work*” towards redefining freedom. He stated “...*It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*” Just as this region was the front line of the Civil War, it continued to contribute to the nation’s progress and setbacks in the ongoing struggle for freedom in the years to follow.

Some of the escaped slaves remained in Kansas settlements, such as Quindaro. Many others lived throughout eastern Kansas. While slaves were freed following the Civil War, racism persisted on both sides of the Kansas-Missouri border. Following Reconstruction, Kansas Governor John P. St. John’s policy of welcoming black emigrants who came to the state as part of the Exoduster Movement was extremely controversial. Although the State of Kansas was the first state to legally oust the Ku Klux Klan in 1925, the Kansas Supreme Court repeatedly upheld the constitutionality of school segregation. It was not until the landmark 1954 case of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* that the United States Supreme Court overturned this decision and paved the way for school integration nationwide. President Harry Truman, who was raised in western Missouri and whose grandparents had suffered tremendous losses during the Border War, advanced Civil Rights with his 1948 Executive Order 9981 which declared that everyone in the armed services, regardless of race, color, religion or national origin, should be provided with equal treatment and opportunity.

African Americans are only one of the groups that have endured national struggles for freedom in this region. Growing freedom and rights for other groups such as Native Americans and women provided new opportunities for leadership and achievement by individuals in this region in the twentieth century. Native Americans like Charles Curtis, who grew up on the Kaw Indian Reservation in Kansas, went on to become Vice President of the United States in 1929 under Herbert Hoover. Women - including Amelia Earhart who was born in Atchison Kansas - grew up to defy gender stereotypes and blaze new trails in the traditionally male-dominated field of aviation.

The ongoing quest for freedom is an elusive struggle that continues to be developed and refined. The lessons that can be learned from the Missouri-Kansas Border War as well as other struggles for freedom by Native Americans, women seeking equal rights, and other groups all contribute to an evolving definition of freedom continues to shape who we are as Americans. The sobering as well as the inspiring nationally significant stories in this region can help us learn from the past to inform the way we view freedom today. The Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area provides opportunities to learn about and experience the evolving ideal and fundamental American value known as “Freedom.”

PROPOSED THEME CRITERIA:

Key criteria for theme development

- 1) Themes must tie in to "Freedom's Frontier" title/name in some way
- 2) Must be stories/themes that are unique to this region
- 3) Fewer themes are better than more themes
- 4) Themes need to be simple and easy to understand
- 5) Must be distinct from each other (avoid overlap between themes)
- 6) Should allow for growth/expansion over time without altering themes
- 7) Represent nationally significant themes for the entire region (not just one part, place or perspective)

PROPOSED REVISED FFNHA THEMES:

(Note: The proposed FFNHA themes below were drafted based on previous work on themes summarized at the end of this document as well as feedback from FFNHA stakeholders)

Main Theme:

Missouri-Kansas Border War and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom

OR

Struggles for Freedom on the Missouri/Kansas Frontier

Sub Themes

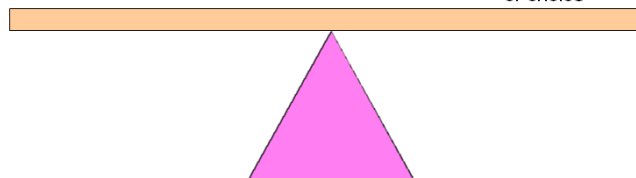
- 1) Shaping of a Frontier
- 2) Missouri-Kansas Border War
- 3) The Enduring Struggle for Freedom

Placing Stories into a Larger Context

Shaping the Frontier
Setting the stage for the Missouri-Kansas Border War and testing the freedom of choice: slavery, settlement and displacement.

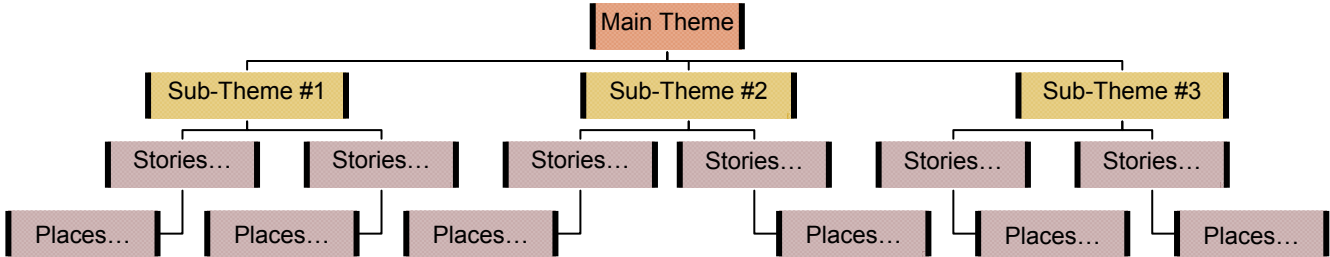
Missouri-Kansas Border War
Redefining freedom of choice

Enduring Struggles for Freedom
The ongoing quest for equality, freedom of belief and freedom of choice



STORIES AND PLACES—A “STARTER” LIST

The following section is intended to provide an indication of the kind of stories that could be told under the proposed FFNHA sub-themes as well as places in the region where these stories could be told. This list is not intended to be an exhaustive list of stories and places. Rather, it is intended to serve as a starting point and an indicator of the kind of stories and places that could be included under the three sub-themes as the stories and heritage resources of the region are inventoried and assessed. In many cases, stories can and will be told in several different places. In other cases, there may be one primary location where a specific story is, or should be, told. In other cases, stories may be told from different perspectives in different locations, adding to the richness of the experience and providing a more complete visitor experience.



As this list is more fully developed, it may be possible to identify interpretive opportunities both for individual sites as well as for FFNHA. This could include identifying a significant place where an important story is not currently being told, or perhaps a story that is not currently being told anywhere in the region. As these gaps and opportunities are identified, they can provide key interpretive development opportunities for FFNHA. As stories are identified, it will be important to gather information both about what happened as well as why it was significant.

Sub-Theme #1 Shaping of a Frontier

During the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century, this frontier region was a crossroads where peoples with varying definitions of “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness collided. Emigrants flocked, fled or were forced into this region based on what they believed and how that manifested itself in how they lived. This region was both a literal frontier on the edge of civilization as well as a figurative frontier where the clashing of morals, ideals, ways-of-life and freedom of choice came together.

Because of this region’s strategic geographical location, this territorial region was the focus of national efforts towards westward expansion by Euro-American settlers as well as wrestling with the national question of slavery through legislation such as the Missouri Compromise, which helped to maintain the balance of slave states and free states by simultaneously admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, and the Kansas-Nebraska Act. National politics and the physical geography of the present day states of Kansas and Missouri played an important role in defining the time and place of the Missouri-Kansas Border Wars and the ultimate resolution of the national slavery question. Stories under this sub-theme will focus primarily on the frontier period of 1800-1854, though appropriate stories prior to 1800 or stories of settlement between 1854 and 1869 when the transcontinental railroad was completed may also be included.

- **Story:** For many years, many European Americans viewed the Great Plains as the “Great American Desert” and had little interest in inhabiting this region. Many Indian tribes, including the Kansa, Missouri and Osage lived, cultivated and hunted in the area before Indian Removal.

- **Story:** In 1803, the United States purchased a vast tract of land from the French in the central United States which included present day Kansas and Missouri as part of the Louisiana Purchase.
- **Story:** Lewis & Clark's explorations of the west took them through this region in 1804 and 1806.
 - **Place:** Fort Osage (*MO, Jackson County*)
 - **Place:** Lexington Riverfront Park (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
 - **Place:** St. Joseph Museum Inc/Wyeth Tootle Mansion (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Glore Psychiatric Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Lewis & Clark Historic Park at Kaw Point (*Kansas City, KS, Wyandotte County*)
 - **Place:** Wyandotte County Historical Museum (*Bonner Springs, KS, Wyandotte County*)
 - **Place:** Leavenworth Landing Park (*Leavenworth, KS, Leavenworth County*)
- **Story:** As early as 1821, the Santa Fe Trail linked Missouri with Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Santa Fe Trail was one of the earliest trails to provide an overland route for westward trade and expansion.
 - **Place:** National Frontier Trails Museum (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
 - **Place:** Fort Leavenworth, KS, Leavenworth County
 - **Place:** Fort Scott, KS, Bourbon County
 - **Place:** Fort Riley, KS, Geary County
 - **Place:** Fort Osage (*Sibley, MO, Jackson County*)
 - **Place:** Liberty Arsenal (*Liberty, MO, Jackson County*)
 - **Place:** Black Jack Cabin (*Baldwin City, KS, Douglas County*)
 - **Place:** Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site (*Fairway, KS*)
 - **Place:** The Trailside Center-New Santa Fe/Historical Society of New Santa Fe (*Kansas City, MO*)
 - **Place:** Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm (*Olathe, KS, Johnson County*)
 - **Place:** Lexington Historical Museum (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
- **Story:** The Missouri Compromise of 1821 brought Missouri into the United States as a slave state and Maine in as a free state to maintain a balance between free and slave states. Also, the Missouri Compromise specified that all of the Louisiana Purchase territory north of the southern boundary of Missouri would be free, while slavery could exist below the Mason-Dixon line.
- **Story:** The Indian Removal Act was passed by Congress in 1830. Most Native American national were uprooted from their original homes in the Eastern states. Many were forced to trek several "Trails of Tears" to Indian territories including Kansas. Later, after the Civil War, many of these Native peoples were pressured once again to "remove" to liberated Indian Territory.
 - **Place:** Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site (*Fairway, KS*)
 - **Place:** St. Philippine Duchesne Memorial Park (*KS, Linn County*)
 - **Place:** New Harmony Mission (*Papinville, MO Bates County*)
 - **Place:** Osage State Historic Site (*MO, Vernon County*)
- **Story:** Mormon settlers moved to Independence, Missouri where they lived between 1831 and 1839. The Mormons established a newspaper, *The Evening and Morning Star* and also printed the first copy of the *Book of Commandments* in Independence. Missourians felt threatened by the Mormons, in part because many of them came from the north and were against slavery. In July of 1833, a mob met at the Independence courthouse and subsequently demanded that the Mormons cease printing their newspaper. When the Mormons refused, attackers stole the printing press and demolished the newspaper office building which was also the home of the editor, William Phelps. Church leaders Bishop Partridge and Charles Allen were seized and taken the

public square in Independence and asked to renounce the Book of Mormon and leave the county. When they refused they were tarred and feathered. Mormons were prohibited from voting in Missouri in 1837. The Missouri Mormons relocated first to Clay County, and subsequently to Daviess County in Missouri outside the FFNHA region. In October of 1838, Missouri Governor Lilburn Boggs issued a decree that “The Mormons must be treated as enemies and must be exterminated or driven from the State.” The resulting “Mormon War” resulted in the slaughtering of 17 Mormons including children at Haun’s Mill in Caldwell County outside the FFNHA region. Joseph Smith and several other Church leaders were jailed at Liberty Jail in Clay County. In April of 1839, while being transported to Gallatin, Missouri for a Grand Jury hearing, Smith and his followers escaped.

- **Place:** Mormon Visitors Center (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** 1827 Log House (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** Heritage Plaza (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** National Frontier Trails Museum (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** Missouri Mormon Walking Trail (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** Liberty Jail (*Liberty, MO, Clay County*)
- **Place:** Machpelah Cemetery (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
- **Place:** Ray County Museum (*MO, Ray County*)
- **Story:** The Oregon and California Trails originated in Missouri as early as the 1840s and linked Missouri to Oregon and California. These trails were heavily used up until the 1860s when the transcontinental railroad was completed. The trails were used by settlers, traders and by prospectors—especially after gold was discovered in California in 1848.
 - **Place:** National Frontier Trails Museum (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Story:** Rivers such as the Missouri River also provided an important early mode of transportation in the first part of the nineteenth century.
 - **Place:** Steamboat Arabia Museum (*Kansas City, MO*)
 - **Place:** Lexington’s Heritage Park (*Lexington, MO Lafayette County*)
- **Story:** Frontier life for settlers in Missouri and Kansas was challenging.
 - **Place:** Woodson County Historical Society (*Yates Center, KS, Woodson County*)
 - **Place:** 1835 Sharp-Hopper Log Cabin (*Harrisonville, MO, Cass County*)
- **Story:** The Kansas Nebraska Act, passed by Congress in 1854, found the Missouri Compromise to be unconstitutional and stated that all new states would have the opportunity for popular sovereignty to determine if they were to be a slave state or a free state. Kansas was to become the first state to test this new policy of self-determination.
- **Story:** The legendary though short-lived Pony Express operated from 1861-1862 between St. Joe, Missouri and Sacramento, California. By reducing the travel time between Missouri and California down to ten days, the Pony Express demonstrated that a reliable transcontinental communications system was viable.
 - **Place:** Lexington Historical Museum (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
 - **Place:** Patee House Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Black Archives Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Glore Psychiatric Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** St. Joseph Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Wyeth-Tootle Mansion (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
 - **Place:** Pony Express National Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
- **Story:** Even after the Border War and Civil War both came to a close, some claim that the Border War’s guerrilla fighters continued with their lawless ways as outlaws in the American West, including Jesse James and other members of the James-Younger Gang.
 - **Place:** The James Farm (*Kearney, MO, Clay County*)
 - **Place:** Jesse James Bank Museum (*Liberty, MO, Jackson County*)

- **Place:** 1859 Jail, Marshal's Home & Museum (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Place:** Jesse James House (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
- **Place:** Patee House Museum (*St. Joseph, MO, Buchanan County*)
- **Place:** Confederate Memorial State Historic Site/Jim Cummins gravesite (*Higginsville, MO, Lafayette County*)
- **Story:** The completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869

Sub-Theme #2 Missouri-Kansas Border War

The question of individual or state rights over the common good for an entire country fueled growing debates as our nation faced fundamental issues of states rights and slavery in the mid nineteenth century. The debate over slavery epitomized battles before and after about freedom and equality. Freedom from and for what? Equality to whom, and what does equality means for each?

The Kansas-Nebraska Act effectively revoked the Missouri Compromise by giving new states the freedom to choose whether they were to be a slave state or a free state by popular sovereignty. Kansas was one of the first states to test this new approach, leading to a struggle over whether Kansas was to be admitted to the union as a slave state or as a free state that escalated into a bloody border war between Kansas and Missouri. The Missouri-Kansas Border War focused national attention on this region where the national question of slavery was being put to the test, ultimately sparking the Civil War. The stakes were high on both sides as Missouri, the northernmost slave state, was already exposed to the north and the east to free states. If Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state, Missouri would be a slave state surrounded on three sides by free states. If admitted as a slave state, there was no telling where the limits to the slavery system would be in the United States. The Missouri-Kansas Border War continued throughout the Civil War and resulted in heavy losses on both sides of the border. Ultimately, Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state and a few years later, slavery in America was abolished and the country was reunited as one nation "with freedom and justice for all" at the close of the Civil War. The stories under this sub-theme will focus primarily on the period beginning with the onset of the Missouri-Kansas Border War in 1854 through the end of the Civil War in 1865.

- **Story:** Both pro-slavery and free state factions believed that the outcome of the election in Kansas to determine if this new state would be a free or a slave state would determine the future existence of slavery, and thus both sides took extreme measures to ensure a positive outcome. Groups such as the New England Emigrant Aid Company worked to bring emigrants from New England to increase the number of free-state supporters in Kansas.
 - **Place:** Watkins Museum, (*Lawrence, KS*)
- **Story:** In Missouri, Lexington founded the Lafayette Emigration Society which attempted to finance movement of pro-southerners into the Kansas territory. They also blockaded the Missouri River in an attempt to stop abolitionists from traveling to Kansas.
 - **Place:** Battle of Lexington State Historic Site (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
- **Story:** The result of the 1855 election in Kansas was influenced by large numbers of Missourians who came across the border to vote illegally to make Kansas a slave state. The resulting administration was referred to by some as the "Bogus Legislature" due to charges of electoral fraud.
 - **Place:** First Territorial Capital (*Fort Riley, KS, Geary County*)
- **Story:** Free-staters in Kansas established a second free-state government in Topeka in 1855 because they did not recognize the legality of the "Bogus Legislature." They drafted the "Topeka Constitution" which outlawed slavery.
 - **Place:** Topeka (where ?)
- **Story:** The conflict escalated from voting to violence on May 21, 1856 when Lawrence, Kansas was attacked by Sheriff Jones and a proslavery posse of 500. Presses for two

- free-soil presses were destroyed and the Free State Hotel serving the New England Emigrant Aid Company was burned.
- **Place:** Lawrence, KS (where?)
 - **Story:** Three days after the attack on Lawrence on May 24, 1856, John Brown and his men retaliated by dragging five proslavery settlers from their homes and murdering them along Pottawatomie Creek.
 - **Place:** John Brown State Historic Site/Adair Cabin (*Osawatomie, KS, Miami County*)
 - **Place:** Old Depot Museum (*Ottawa, KS, Franklin County*)
 - **Story:** At the Battle of Black Jack in June 1856 John Brown fought and won what some consider to be the first battle in the American Civil War.
 - **Place:** Black Jack Cabin and Black Jack Battlefield (*Baldwin City, KS, Douglas County*)
 - **Story:** In March 1857, the Supreme Court ruled in the Dred Scott case that Congress did not have a right to prohibit slavery.
 - **Story:** Lecompton Constitutional Convention (Fall 1857). The Lecompton Constitution would have admitted Kansas as a slave state, and this controversy became a topic for the Lincoln-Douglas debates.
 - **Place:** Lecompton Constitutional Territorial Capital of Kansas (*Lecompton, KS, Douglas County*)
 - **Story:** Leavenworth Constitution ratified May 18, 1858
 - **Place:** Constitution Hall State Historic Site (*Lecompton, KS, Douglas County*)
 - **Story:** On May 19, 1858, Charles Hamilton led a group of proslavery men into Kansas where they seized eleven free-soil settlers. They took the men to a wooded ravine just north of the Marais des Cygnes River and fired on them, killing five and wounding others. This event became known as the "Marais des Cygnes Massacre."
 - **Place:** Marais des Cygnes Massacre State Historic Site (*Mound City, KS, Linn County*)
 - **Story:** In 1859, the Free State Wyandotte Constitution was drawn up and ratified by Kansas voters. Kansas was admitted to the Union on January 29, 1861 as a free state.
 - **Story:** Some of the Native Nations of the southeastern states had come to enslave Africans who were then forced to share the ordeals of the Trail of Tears and resettlement. Some of the Native Americans in Indian territory tried to escape the violence of the Civil War. Many thousands of those Indians who opposed the Confederacy fled to what had become the "free state" of Kansas. Under the leadership of the Creek Indian leader Opothleyahola, they were joined by hundreds of Blacks in a "Great Escape" across the "Trail of Blood on Ice." The surviving warrior age men among the Indians and the Blacks formed military units that, together with the Kansas Colored regiments, became the first organized "colored troops" to engage in armed battle for the Union Army during the Civil War.
 - **Place:** Leroy Opothleyahalo Memorial Building (*KS, Coffey County*)
 - **Place:** Forts Row and Belmont (*KS, Woodson County*)
 - **Place:** Humboldt Civil War Tour (*KS, Allen County*)
 - **Place:** "Trail of Blood on Ice Tour" (*KS, Allen, Coffey, Wilson and Woodson Counties*)
 - **Story:** Kansas was part of the Underground Railroad.
 - **Place:** Raymond Allen Cultural Center (*KS, Leavenworth County*)
 - **Place:** Old Quindaro Ruins (*KS, Wyandotte County*)
 - **Place:** Humboldt Tour
 - **Place:** "Aunt Polly" Crosslin Log Cabin marker (*Humboldt, KS, Allen County*)

- **Story:** During the Jayhawks Raid and Rampage through western Missouri, the towns of Dayton, Rose Hill, Columbus, Butler, West Point, and Nevada were burned causing millions of dollars in property loss and indiscriminate murders.
- **Story:** The raiding on September 8, 1861 and later the burning on October 14, 1861 of the town of Humboldt
 - **Place:** Humboldt Civil War Tour (*KS, Allen County*)
- **Story:** The Sacking of Osceola on September 23, 1861
 - **Place:** St. Clair Historical Society (*Osceola, MO, St. Clair County*)
- **Story:** The Civil War Battle of Lexington, Missouri in September 1861.
 - **Place:** Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
 - **Place:** Lexington Historical Museum (*Lexington, MO, Lafayette County*)
- **Story:** The Civil War Battle of Lone Jack on August 16, 1862 was one of the bloodiest Civil War battles fought on Missouri soil. Soldiers are still buried in the original trench graves at the site. 800 Union troops were defeated by 3000 Confederate soldiers.
 - **Place:** Lone Jack Civil War Battlefield, Cemetery & Museum (*Lone Jack, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Story:** In August of 1863, William Quantrill and his men raided Lawrence, Kansas killing 180 men and boys and causing an estimated \$2 million in damage to the town.
 - **Place:** Lawrence Visitor Information Center (*Lawrence, KS, Douglas County*)
 - **Place:** Woodlawn Cemetery (*Independence, MO, Jackson County*)
- **Story:** The more heavily wooded landscape in Missouri provided refuge for Missouri bushwhackers and frustrated the Union troops attempting to stop them.
- **Story:** A week after Quantrill's Raid in 1863, Order No. 11 ordered the removal of all Missourians who could not provide proof of their loyalty to the Union living in the four border counties. Much of what was left behind was burned, and this area was subsequently referred to as the "Burnt District."
 - **Place:** Cass County Historical Society (*Harrisonville, MO, Cass County*)
 - **Place:** Bates County Museum of Pioneer History (*Butler, MO, Bates County*)
 - **Place:** Bushwhacker Museum (*Nevada, MO, Vernon County*)
 - **Place:** Genealogy Branch, Cass County Public Library (*Harrisonville, MO, Cass County*)
- **Story:** At the Civil War Battle of Westport on October 23, 1864, Union forces under Major General Samuel R. Curtis defeated Confederate Army troops led by Major General Sterling Price. This battle proved to be a turning point for Price's Missouri Expedition, ultimately forcing his army to retreat.
 - **Place:** Swope Park Interpretive Center & Byram's Ford/ Battle of Westport (*Kansas City, MO*)
 - **Place:** John Wornall House Museum (*Kansas City, MO*)
 - **Place:** Harris-Kearney House/Westport Historical Society (*Kansas City, MO*)
- **Story:** On October 25, 1864, Federal forces attacked the retreating Confederate Army on the banks of Mine Creek. The Battle of Mine Creek was the only major Civil War battle in Kansas and one of the largest cavalry engagements of the Civil War.
 - **Place:** Mine Creek Battlefield (*Pleasanton, KS, Linn County*)

Sub-Theme #3: The Enduring Struggle for Freedom

The ongoing quest to define freedom—equality for all people, freedom of choice, and freedom of beliefs—continues in this region just as it does in the nation and in the world.

Although the Missouri-Kansas Border War helped to resolve issues of states rights and slavery, the way in which we define "freedom" continues to evolve. Racism on both sides of the border created challenges for free blacks following the Civil War, and the struggle to secure rights for African Americans as well as other groups such as women and Native Americans are ongoing. The stories under this sub-

theme will focus primarily on the major ongoing national struggles for freedom and justice that came after the frontier was established and the Missouri-Kansas Border War ended, from 1865 through the present day.

- Stories of the African American Enduring Struggle for Freedom:
 - **Story:** Some of the pioneer black families of southeastern Kansas were established by the escaped slaves who came with the Great Escape, or later during the Civil War. They were scattered across many towns, sometimes together with the refugee Native American families to form the “colored community” in those towns.
 - **Place:** Humboldt Poplar Grove Baptist Church (*KS, Allen County*)
 - **Story:** Following the end of the Civil War in the late 1870s, when the federal government ceased its military occupation of the South, there was a mass migration as southern Blacks left the South in great numbers. These free blacks were known as “Exodusters.” Aided by charitable Kansans and Missourians, they made new homes in communities stretching west from Kansas City.
 - **Story:** Langston Hughes, resident of Lawrence from 1902-1915 and a well known black American poet, novelist, playwright, short story writer and columnist, was taught by his grandmother Mary Leary Langston that all people should have access to full human rights. His grandmother was the widow of one of John Brown’s black followers who fell at Harper’s Ferry, and she would put the boy to sleep with his grandfather’s blood-stained coat as a blanket.
 - **Story:** Kansas was the first state to oust the Ku Klux Klan in 1925.
 - **Story:** President Harry Truman’s Executive Order 9981 in 1948 declared that there was to be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.
 - **Place:** Harry S. Truman National Historical Site (*Independence, MO Jackson County*)
 - **Place:** Truman Presidential Library & Museum (*Independence, MO Jackson County*)
 - **Story:** When the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism denied her admission eleven times because she was black, Kansas City native Lucile Bluford took her case to the state Supreme Court. After she was finally admitted in 1941, the School of Journalism closed. Fifty years later, the University of Missouri granted her an honorary degree.
 - **Story:** In the landmark 1954 case of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*, the United States Supreme Court overturned the Kansas Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the constitutionality of school segregation. This paved the way for school integration nationwide.
 - **Place:** Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site (*Topeka, KS, Shawnee County*)
 - **Story:** Gordon Parks (1912-2006) was the youngest of 15 children born into a poor black family in segregated Fort Scott, Kansas. He grew up to become a famous photographer, writer and film director. He is perhaps best known for his photo essays in *Life* magazine and as the director of the 1971 film *Shaft*.
 - **Place:** Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity (*Fort Scott, KS, Bourbon County*)
 - **Place:** Gordon Parks Collection (*Fort Scott, KS, Bourbon County*)
- Stories of the Native American Enduring Struggle for Freedom

- **Story:** Indian education evolved from efforts to re-educate Indian peoples in the areas of industrial training and housekeeping to the study and revival of Indian cultures.
 - **Place:** (Haskell Indian Nations University, (*Lawrence, KS, Douglas County*))
 - **Story:** Charles Curtis, who grew up on a Kaw Indian Reservation, became Vice President of the United States under President Herbert Hoover in 1929.
 - **Place:** Charles Curtis House Museum (*Topeka, KS, Shawnee County*)
 - **Story:** Kansas Senator Sam Brownback introduced legislation in 2008 that would offer an apology to Native Peoples on behalf of the United States.
- Stories of Enduring Struggles for Freedom for Women
 - **Story:** In 1867, defeated by a failed effort to gain suffrage for Kansas women and blacks, Susan B. Anthony, sister of Leavenworth publisher and future Kansas Governor George T. Anthony, formed the Equal Rights Association to advocate for universal suffrage. Her efforts on behalf of women's suffrage finally bore fruit in 1912, when Kansas women were granted suffrage eight years before the 19th Amendment.
 - **Story:** Clarina Nichols (1810-1885) secured liberal women's property rights for women and the right to vote in school district elections. She lived in both Lawrence and Quindaro, Kansas.
 - **Story:** In 1884, Virginia Alice Cottey founded Nevada, Missouri's Cottey College, an institution devoted to higher education for women.
 - **Place:** Cottey College (*Nevada, MO, Vernon County*)
 - **Story:** Atchison, Kansas native Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) defied gender stereotypes and blazed new trails in the male-dominated field of aviation.
 - **Place:** Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum (*Atchison, KS, Atchison County*)

FOR REFERENCE: EXISTING THEMES USED AS BASIS FOR PROPOSED THEMES

A) 2004 Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Themes

Main Theme:

Bleeding Kansas and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom

Sub Themes:

- 1) Kansas Territory: Geography of Rivers, Trails and Road Development
- 2) The Kansas Conflict: Bleeding Kansas
- 3) The Underground Railroad
- 4) African Americans and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom
- 5) Native Americans and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom

B) Themes from draft 2005 Missouri-Kansas Rivers, Trails and Rails National Heritage Area Feasibility Study.

Main Theme:

Rivers, Trails and Rails

Sub Themes:

- 1) Cultural Crossroads
- 2) Borders and Bridges
- 3) Shaping of a President

C) Initial themes brainstormed by KS and MS FFNHA stakeholders at the 3/07 FFNHA meeting

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|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1) Landscapes | 4) Settlement |
| 2) Territorial Kansas | 5) Jargon |
| 3) Battles | |

Revised Set of Themes based on 3/07 FFNHA Meeting Presented at 4/07 FFNHA Meeting

- 1) Freedom: Struggle / Endurance
 - a. American Indians
 - b. Euro Americans
 - c. African Americans
 - d. Military
 - e. Survival
 - f. Manifest Destiny
- 2) Freedom: Way of Life
 - a. Choice
 - b. Patterns
 - c. Passing Through
 - d. Forced
 - e. Assigned
 - f. Choice/Forced Combination
- 3) Freedom: Of Believing.
 - a. "Official" Battles
 - b. "Unofficial" Battles
 - c. Military Orders
 - d. Taking Advantage of the Situation
 - e. Legislation
 - f. Martyrs

Each sub-theme then shows specific events, situations, places and/or people.