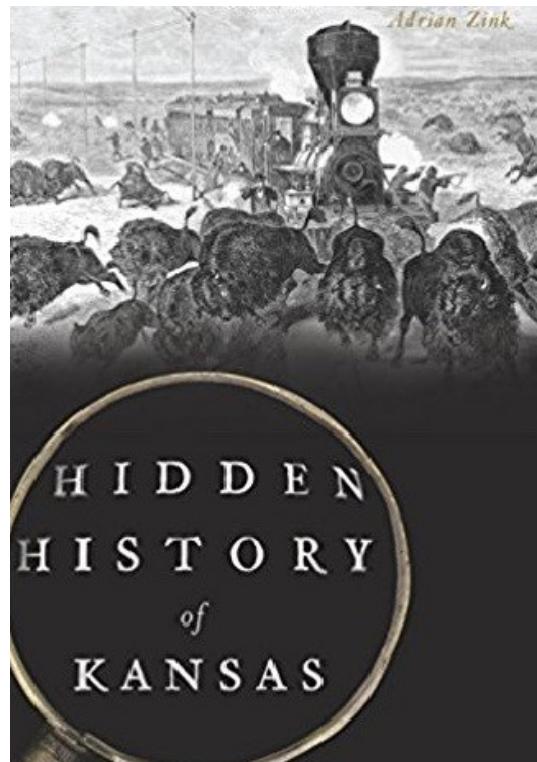




# National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

## Author Adrian Zink to Discuss *Hidden History of Kansas*

On Wednesday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives will host author **Adrian Zink** who will discuss his book *Hidden History of Kansas*. A free light reception will precede the program at 6:00 p.m.



Kansas' storied past is filled with fascinating firsts, humorous coincidences and intriguing characters. A man who had survived a murderous proslavery massacre in 1858 hanged his would-be executioner five years later. A wealthy Frenchman utilized his utopian ideals to create an award-winning silk-producing commune in Franklin County. A young boy's amputated arm led to the rise of Sprint Corporation. The first victim of the doomed Donner Party met her end in Kansas. In 1947, a housewife in Johnson County, indignant at the poor condition of the local school for black children, sparked school desegregation nationwide. Author and historian Zink digs deep into the Sunflower State's history to reveal these hidden and overlooked stories.

Copies of Zink's book will be available for purchase and signing. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.

## July History Happy Hour with the Truman Presidential Library and Museum

On Friday, July 13 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., the National Archives, in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, will host a *History Happy Hour* program. This program will feature staff archivist **Randy Sowell** who will discuss **Showdown with the Soviets: The Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949**. The event will place at the Truman Library, 500 West U.S. Highway 24, Independence, MO. The History Happy Hour is free for Truman Library members; paid museum admission applies for non-members. [Reservations](#) are requested.

Following World War II, communist groups in Europe were gaining momentum as their message of hope and prosperity resonated with people suffering through the post-war recession. Intent on fostering a communist uprising in post-war Germany, the Soviet Union required all Western convoys travelling through Soviet Germany be searched. When the United States and its allies refused, the Soviet Union cut off all surface traffic to West Berlin. Against the wishes of many of his closest advisors, Truman supported the order to supply West Berlin with food and other critical necessities by air. Sowell will discuss how the airlift became a symbol of America's resolve to stand up to the Soviets.

**July 2018**

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### Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives  
400 W. Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108

- **JULY 11** - 6:30 P.M.  
AUTHOR LECTURE: *HIDDEN HISTORY OF KANSAS* BY ADRIAN ZINK
- **JULY 13** - 4:00 P.M.  
\*HISTORY HAPPY HOUR: SHOWDOWN WITH THE SOVIETS
- **JULY 16** - 6:30 P.M.  
\*EVENING LECTURE: AMERICAN JEWS IN WWI WITH MICHAEL NEIBERG
- **JULY 27** - 10:00 A.M & 1:00 P.M. SUMMER FUN TOURS

\*DENOTES ACTIVITY IS OFFSITE.

# Upcoming Free Professional Development Opportunities for Educators

## *The Making of American Indian Treaties*

**Thursday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time**

The National Archives holds all original American Indian treaties and their associated materials. Many of these materials are now being digitized for the first time as part of an ongoing scanning project. Imagine your students producing a play, video, or reenactment using the actual materials produced by treaty negotiators at the time – and focused on the area your students know best, their very own community. *This webinar is part of our Native American professional development series. Each program features new resources for locating and using Federal records related to American Indians and Alaska Natives.* [Registration](#) is required.

## *An Introduction to DocsTeach.org and Online Resources from the National Archives*

**Monday, August 13, at 12:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time**

**Friday, August 17 at 3:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time**

Gear up for the 2018-2019 school year with an introduction to DocsTeach.org, the online tool for teaching with documents from the National Archives. Discover primary sources for teaching history and civics topics. Explore the 12 different document-based activity tools and learn how, with a free DocsTeach account, you can create your own activities or modify existing activities to share with your students. Also learn about additional online resources from the National Archives including document analysis worksheets, and lesson plans and eBooks from the Center for Legislative Archives. [Registration](#) is required.



## *Preview of 2018 Distance Learning Programs for Students*

**Monday, August 13 at 3:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time**

**Friday, August 17 at 12:00 p.m. - Eastern Standard Time**

Discover how you can bring the National Archives to your classroom through interactive, primary source-based distance learning programs! In this special half-hour session, you will preview our K-12 distance learning programs, including new programs for the 2018-2019 school year. Learn about the technology requirements and how to prepare your students for the different programs. [Registration](#) is required.

## Michael Neiberg to Discuss American Jews in WWI at the National World War I Museum and Memorial

On **Monday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.**, the National Archives in partnership with the World War I Museum and Memorial, will host **Michael Neiberg** for a lecture on **American Jews in WWI**. This event will take place at the National World War I Museum and Memorial, 2 Memorial Drive, Kansas City, MO. [Reservations](#) are requested for this **free program**.



When the First World War began in 1914, most American Jews supported the Central Powers, both because of the relative openness of Austrian society and their hatred of the anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. As the war developed, however, American Jews came to support the British and French, due to their American and Jewish identities. Neiberg, a WWI scholar, will trace the evolution of American Jewish thought from 1914 to 1917 and shows how events in both Europe and the U.S. led American Jews to support America's entry into the war. This program is presented in conjunction with the *For Liberty: American Jewish Experience in WWI* exhibit and is offered in partnership with the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum and Truman Library Institute and National World War I Museum and Memorial.

The *For Liberty: American Jewish Experience in WWI* exhibition is open to the public through November 11, 2018, at the National World War I Museum and Memorial. This traveling exhibit examines the American Jewish battlefield and home front participation through a series of stories and objects.

## Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

### From “Free Land” to Establishing a Monument

“It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to lay out said land in a suitable and enduring manner so that the same may be maintained as an appropriate monument to retain for posterity a proper memorial emblematical of the hardships and the pioneer life through which the early settlers passed in the settlement, cultivation and civilization of the great West.”

These remarks, stated in 1936, were noted as a part of the justification of a monument and eventually a museum at Homestead National Monument. To understand how this National Park Service site was established and came into existence, a short journey back to 1862 is required.

“Free land was the cry!” is the moniker that was often used after the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862. However, the act was key in expanding the United States toward the west and provided an opportunity for many not only to migrate, but also to own a piece of property that could be farmed or ranched and cultivated for generations. The Federal government allotted upwards of 10% of public land to applicants known as “homesteaders.” Most of the land was located west of the Mississippi River encompassing 30 states, with Nebraska having the most land available of any state.

Any individual aged 21 or head of household could apply, including women and immigrants who had sought citizenship, as the primary requirement for homestead applicants was citizenship. Because of this provision, it is estimated that 20% of Homestead applicants were women and another 20% were African Americans, many of whom were former slaves. From 1862-1934, the United States allocated approximately 1.6 million homesteads to those who could prove they worked and farmed their property within a span of five years, and built a minimum sized 12x14 dwelling. The average homesteader owned 160 acres per claim. Homesteading was discontinued in 1976, except for the state of Alaska which continued homesteading until 1986.

The first Homestead Act applicant was Daniel Freeman who settled five miles northwest of Beatrice, Nebraska. Freeman had been a soldier in the Union Army on furlough when he eyed a piece of T-shaped land he desired. After arriving at the nearest Land Office on December 31, 1862, in Brownville, Nebraska, Freeman found the town overwhelmed with settlers waiting to make claims on January 2, as New Year’s Day was January 1 and the Land Office would be closed. Freeman had orders to return to his unit on January 1, however he successfully convinced the clerk in the Land Office to open on January 1, 1863, so he could be the first to file his claim under the new Act ten minutes after midnight.

For many years, the Freeman family lived on the claim. Freeman was a soldier, doctor, farmer, coroner, and sheriff. According to records found in the National Park Service files, which includes a biography of Freeman, his family originated from Vermont then moved to Ohio and eventually Illinois where Freeman grew up.

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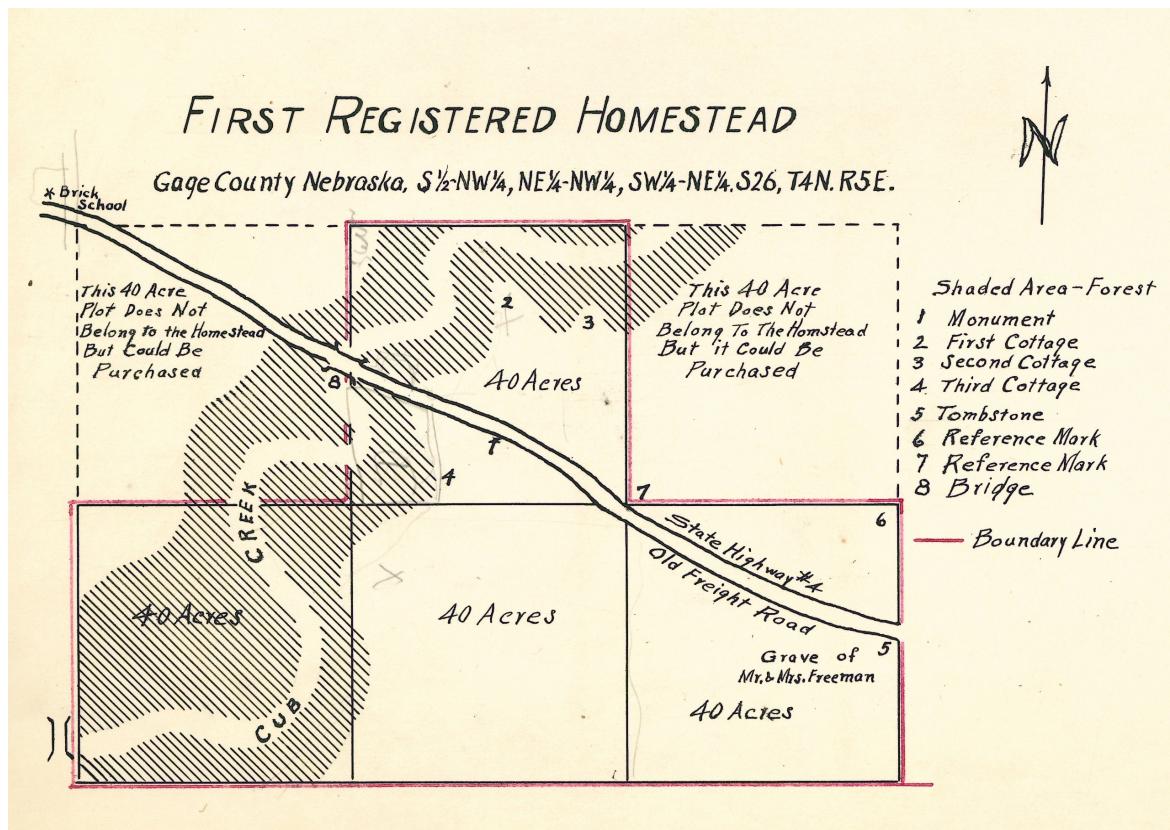
Above: Original caption: This photograph of Daniel Freeman with his flintlock, powder horn, revolver, and knife was taken by Fred Case of Beatrice, Nebraska about 1884. Freeman was 58 years old. Mrs. Carre (Freeman's daughter) states that about this time her father was enjoying having his picture taken and in this case arrayed himself for the occasion. Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, 1785-2006, National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files, 1931-1952, Homestead National Monument of America. National Archives Identifier 4709017.

He attended Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati and entered the military during the Civil War. He was assigned secret service and scouting work on behalf of the Federal government. After the war he and Agnes, his second wife, settled on the homestead claim. National Park Service records housed at the National Archives in Kansas City include interview materials from the Freeman children who provide details about their parents settling on the land near Beatrice.

On March 19, 1936, President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation that turned the former Daniel Freeman Homestead into what we know as Homestead National Monument of America located in Beatrice, Nebraska. Decades of work had occurred leading up to establishment of the site. As early as 1909, Nebraskans lobbied lawmakers to turn the Freeman homestead into a historical site. Interpretive site plans were drawn up as a part of the justification for the monument as even though the land was available for the monument, none of the original structures built by the Freeman family remained. At one time, a log cabin, brick house and other frame houses existed on the site, however by the late 1930s these had been lost. The Master Plan for the site included reconstruction of the Freeman cabin and a museum/administration building. At one point, an "open-air" museum was given consideration by the National Park Service as a part of the site plans.

The early inventory of the site included the locations of the former structures; a freight road; the graves of Daniel and Agnes Freeman; and the natural elements of the land which included Cub Creek and restored grasses and trees. Early visitation numbers in National Park Service records indicate 1,400 visitors to the site in 1941 and close to 1,900 visitors by 1947. Yet, with World War II erupting, correspondence indicates that continued work to develop and interpret the site slowed as some of the National Park Service employees were being drafted for military service.

After World War II, work continued on developing trail routes with markers for site visitors, along with temporary exhibits that would illustrate what life was like for a typical homesteader. Examples included the evolution of residences from a sod home (soddie or soddy) to a log cabin then onto a brick structure. In addition, markers were needed for the graves of the Freemans, the freight road, and the nature trail. Native grasses were added by the National Park Service to restore the land and limit soil erosion and control for flooding. And finally, an exhibit space and museum was part of the site planning. The original prospectus from 1946 indicates that a main exhibit hall would be used for housing the formal displays telling the story of the homestead movement; a "domestic" exhibit space would focus on the interior of a cabin or soddy; an "agricultural" exhibit would highlight aspects of farming; and the museum would have a small library for researchers and visitors.



**Left:** This map found in the National Park Service records illustrates the original Homestead National Monument site. The map notes the natural elements of the site and indicates future land that could be purchased for expansion of the monument site. Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, 1785-2006, National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files, 1931-1952, Homestead National Monument of America. National Archives Identifier 4709017.

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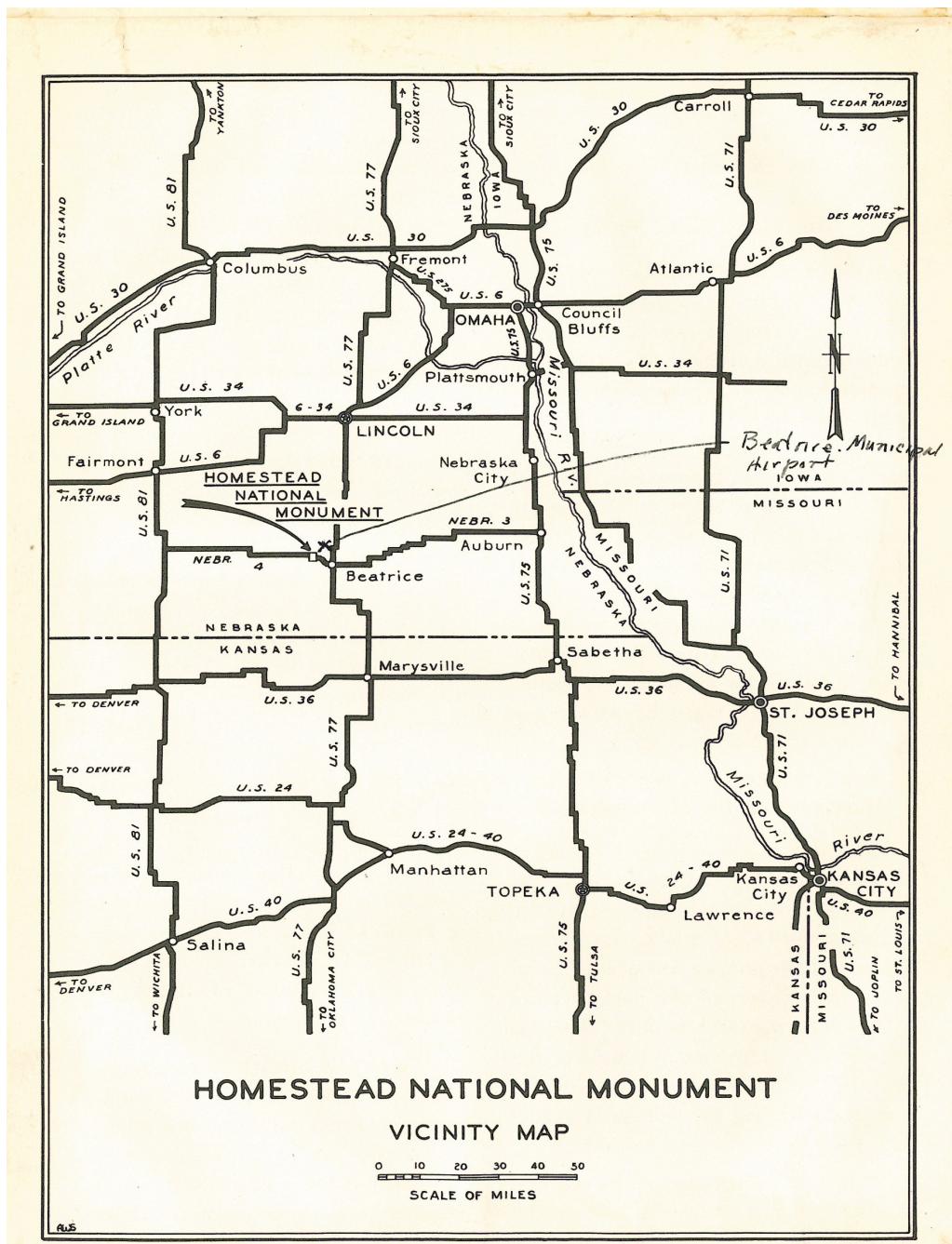
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In 1950, the National Park Service acquired the Palmer-Epard Cabin, built in 1867, near Beatrice by George Palmer. This cabin filled a need in being able to interpret what the typical structure was like for most homesteaders. It is representative of the style of the original Freeman Cabin and was considered luxurious in size as it measures 14x16 feet, a few feet more than the required dwelling. In addition, in 1971 the Freeman School (it is unknown if this was named for Daniel Freeman or Thomas Freeman, a local bricklayer and member of the school board) was added to the monument site. The school was built in 1872 as a one-room structure that was used up until 1967; it has the distinction of being the longest running one-room schoolhouse in the state of Nebraska.

In 2001, Homestead National Monument of America was identified as a Center for Environmental Innovation Park. The current site uses innovative technology and environmentally friendly resources to be a leading site in environmental compliance and pollution prevention. Solar energy, green products, monitoring of water consumption, and light sensors are some of the enhancements that have been made.

In 2007, the National Park Service opened the Heritage Center which now serves to house museum exhibits, a public research area, and public events and programs. The Heritage Center building is designed to look like a single bottom plow moving through sod and representing the experience of homesteaders.

Further information about the Homestead Act of 1862 can be found [here](#). For more details and research information about National Park Service Records, visit the [online catalog](#). In addition, [Fold3.com](#), a digitization partner of the National Archives and Records Administration, has made available on their website all of the successful claims made by homesteaders for the state of [Nebraska](#). These records, known officially as Land Entry Case Files, are arranged by Land Office and then by Township, Range, and Section. The Freeman claim is located in Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Section 26. All 25-pages of the claim are available for viewing.



Above: This vicinity map is a part of the site research and planning files found in National Park Service records housed at the National Archives at Kansas City. Beatrice is located 40 miles directly south of Lincoln, NE. In addition, National Park Service staff noted an airport on this map. Record Group 79, Records of the National Park Service, 1785-2006, National Parks and Monuments Central Classified Files, 1931-1952, Homestead National Monument of America. National Archives Identifier 4709017.

## National Archives to Offer Free Friday Summer Fun Tours

This summer, National Archives public programs staff will offer Free Friday Summer Fun Tours of the facility and *We the People* exhibit. *We the People* highlights the millions of records that give insight into the lives of ordinary people. The 90-minute tour will provide visitors with an overview about records housed at the Archives.

Tour participants will also learn the history of the Adams-Express Building, which houses the National Archives at Kansas City, along with other features within the building. Tours will be offered on the following dates:



- Friday, July 27
- Friday, August 17

Group tours must be scheduled 48 hours in advance and are limited to no more than 12 people per group. Two tour times are available on the dates noted above, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Tours require walking or standing for approximately 90-minutes. More information about group tours can be found [here](#). **Reservations are required**; call 816-268-8072 or email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov).

### Are you connected to the National Archives at Kansas City?

We encourage our patrons to use electronic mail and social media to connect with us. Our Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity). In addition, you can find us on Instagram @kansascity.archives or tweet us via Twitter @KCArchives or #KCArchives.



All information about upcoming events and programs is emailed to patrons through our electronic mailing list. If we do not have your address on file, please send an email with your preferred address to [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or call 816-268-8000.



By providing your address, you grant the National Archives at Kansas City permission to send you information about special events, and programs. Per the Privacy Act of 1974, we will not share your personal information with third parties.



**GENERAL INFORMATION:** The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather. The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email [kansascity.educate@nara.gov](mailto:kansascity.educate@nara.gov) or visit [www.archives.gov/kansas-city](http://www.archives.gov/kansas-city). Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity](https://www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity). Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives. Find and follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives).