



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Smithsonian Exhibition Kansas Tour Premieres in Lindsborg June 26**

**Topeka, KS** – Lindsborg is the first of six Kansas communities to host *Journey Stories*, a new Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. The exhibition will tour the state beginning June 26, 2009 at the McPherson County Old Mill Museum in Lindsborg with stops in five other Kansas communities through April 2010. The tour is made possible by the Kansas Humanities Council.

The *Journey Stories* 2009-2010 Kansas tour schedule is:

<b>Lindsborg</b> , McPherson County Old Mill Museum	June 26-August 9, 2009
<b>Glasco</b> , Glasco Community Foundation	August 14-September 27, 2009
<b>Junction City</b> , Geary County Historical Society	October 2-November 15, 2009
<b>Parsons</b> , Parsons Public Library	November 20, 2009-January 3, 2010
<b>Colby</b> , Prairie Museum of Art and History	January 8-February 21, 2010
<b>Atchison</b> , Atchison County Historical Society	February 26-April 11, 2010

Journey stories – tales of how we got here – are as American as apple pie. Why did our families come to America? Why did our ancestors choose Kansas as home? The exhibition explores four centuries of American history through images, audio clips, music, maps, and artifacts. Visitors will listen to stories of travelers and trace their route on an interactive map; read harrowing accounts of escaped slaves on the road to freedom; and use an 1859 guidebook to prepare for a westward trip on an overland trail.

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Bringing the cultural resources of the nation’s premier museum to Kansas communities is a priority of the Kansas Humanities Council, said Julie Mulvihill, executive director. “The Kansas Humanities Council is pleased to be working with the six host communities to help develop local exhibits and public programming to complement the Smithsonian exhibition.”

Each host community will create companion exhibits and public programming featuring their unique, local journey stories. Parsons and Atchison will explore the impact of the railroad on their communities. Lindsborg will examine the legacy of Swedish and Mennonite immigrants to the region. Glasco will study Highway 24’s role in the town’s past, present, and future. Junction City will examine its place “on the road to everywhere.” Colby will focus on journey stories from the High Plains.

The Kansas Humanities Council sponsors the Kansas tour of *Journey Stories*. A non-profit cultural institution, the Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities.

The *Journey Stories* exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution, the Kansas Humanities Council, and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

For more information about *Journey Stories* Kansas Tour contact the Kansas Humanities Council at 785/357-0359 or visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

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