

# Shared Stories of the Civil War



*Shared Stories of the Civil War* is a collection of reader's theater scripts created from historical letters, diaries, newspaper articles, and other archival documents from the 1850s and 1860s. The scripts explore events – the shared stories – that occurred in Kansas and Missouri during the Border War and the Civil War.

*Shared Stories of the Civil War* scripts are ideal for use in schools, historical societies, museums, public libraries, community organizations, or clubs. Regional historians have reviewed all of the scripts for authenticity and accuracy.

## Create a Shared Stories event in your community.

You will find everything you need to host a *Shared Stories of the Civil War* event at [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org). There, you will find scripts, introductory essays, questions to think about, take home handouts, and instructions for hosting the event.

**Cost: FREE**

## TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM

### *Scripts Exploring Events Before the Civil War*

#### **Guerilla Warfare**

The war on the Kansas-Missouri border created guerilla warriors on both sides: the Kansas Jayhawkers and Missouri Bushwhackers.

#### **Compromise to Conflict: Missouri Compromise & Kansas-Nebraska Act**

As the United States expanded into the West, the question of slavery remained unresolved.

#### **John Brown: Martyr or Madman**

On the night of May 24, 1856, a group of armed men led by John Brown appeared among the settlements along the Pottawatomie Creek in eastern Kansas. Five men – all proslavery settlers – were summoned from their cabins and killed.

#### **Settling the Kansas Territory**

Opened for settlement in 1854, the area along the Missouri border attracted many settlers, some with political motivations and others motivated by opportunity.

### **The Underground Railroad**

Nowhere in the United States was the Underground Railroad more dangerous than in western Missouri and eastern Kansas in the late 1850s.

### *Scripts Exploring Events During the Civil War*

#### **The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War**

As the Border War raged between Kansas and Missouri and tensions mounted between North and South, the Cherokee Nation faced a decision: In the event of Civil War, would they side with the Union or the Confederacy?

#### **Pledging Allegiance**

North or South? Union or Confederacy? The choices of which side to take grew more complicated in the early months of the Civil War.

#### **Price's March of 1864**

In 1864, Confederate General Sterling Price led 10,000 troops across Missouri in a campaign to seize Missouri from Union control. While his actions thrilled some, they terrorized countless others.

### **Quantrill's Raid & Order Number 11**

Two of the most notorious events of the Civil War along the Kansas and Missouri border were Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence in 1863 and the issuance of Order Number 11.

### **Rhetoric of the Civil War Press**

Newspapers played a crucial role in shaping public perception of events on the Kansas and Missouri border in the 1850s and 1860s.

### **Skirmish at Island Mound**

The First Kansas Colored Volunteer Infantry was the first African-American Northern regiment to see battle and the first to die in action at the Battle of Island Mound, Missouri.

### *What is a Reader's Theater?*

A reader's theater is a presentation of a script by several readers. Unlike traditional theater, the focus of a reader's theater is the text and discussion – no costumes, memorization, staging, or special lighting are required.

The *Shared Stories of the Civil War* Reader's Theater project is a partnership between Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and the Kansas Humanities Council.

FFNHA is a partnership of 41 counties in eastern Kansas and western Missouri dedicated to connecting the stories of settlement, the Border War and the Enduring Struggle for Freedom in this area. KHC is a nonprofit organization promoting understanding of the history and ideas that shape our lives and strengthen our sense of community.



For More Information:  
Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area  
[www.freedomsfrontier.org](http://www.freedomsfrontier.org)

Kansas Humanities Council  
[www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org)