

## Smithsonian Exhibition Coming to Parsons Public Library in 2009

Posted by Jean Strader, Director, Parsons Public Library

Parsons is one of six Kansas communities selected to host *Journey Stories*, a Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition. The exhibition will be at the Parsons Public Library November 20, 2009 – January 3, 2010. Kansas is one of five states hosting the debut of this traveling exhibition, made possible by a partnership between the Kansas Humanities Council and Museum on Main Street. Although there are six Kansas hosts for this program, Parsons will be the only one to have the exhibit in the public library.



***Parsons Carnegie Library  
is Part of Parsons' History***

*Journey Stories* – tales of how all of us got “here” – are as American as apple pie. Why did our ancestors come to America? Why did our families choose Kansas as home? The exhibition combines America’s transportation history (trails, trains, wagons, cars, trucks and airplanes) with the innovative ways people have used transportation to create a sense of place. The *Journey Stories* exhibit includes the stories of people coming in search of promise in a new country; stories of individuals and families relocating in search of fortune, their own homestead, or employment; the harrowing journeys of Africans and Native Americans forced to move; and, of course, fun on the open road.

“The history of Parsons has always been directly tied to the development of transportation,” said Jean Strader, Parsons Public Library Director. “Without the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, also known as the ‘Katy,’ Parsons would not exist. We are looking forward to the opportunity to host this exhibit and explore and celebrate our heritage.”

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 Parsons Public Library to help develop local exhibits and public programming to complement the Smithsonian exhibition.”



***Parsons Will Be Only Kansas Public  
Library Host for Journey Stories***

Parsons is one of six communities to host *Journey Stories* in Kansas. Lindsborg, Glasco, Junction City, Colby, and Atchison will also host the exhibition during its 10-month Kansas tour.

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

The Kansas Humanities Council sponsors *Journey Stories* in Kansas. A non-profit organization with over

35 years experience, 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.

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