



Network to Freedom



Network to Freedom Celebrates 5 Years

On July 21, 2003, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Network to Freedom) Program celebrated the 5th anniversary of its authorization. The Network to Freedom has made a critical transition from a start-up endeavor to a mature program achieving national and international stature. It is a model National Park Service (NPS) internal and external cultural resource program focusing on the under-told story of the Underground Railroad and on hitherto unidentified or undocumented resources. By its 5th anniversary, the Network to Freedom accepted 129 sites, facilities, and programs in six regions (including 13 NPS sites and programs) representing 25 states and the District of Columbia. In fiscal year 2002, the only year funding was appropriated, the Network to Freedom grant program awarded \$250,000 in community grants to 14 Network to Freedom members.

The Program has developed a visual identity to raise awareness through an original logo and an accompanying graphic standards manual, a brochure, specially commissioned lapel pins and posters. In 2002 the program website (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr>) created and posted a database of: Network to Freedom members and partners; abstracts of Network to Freedom

nominations; a downloadable Network to Freedom application and instructions; and new information about regional Underground Railroad stories. To serve the public lacking electronic access to the internet, the Program produces a national newsletter twice a year.

In 2002 alone, the Program sponsored 12 regional Gatherings across the U.S. to encourage sharing of resources and information among the grassroots, academic, preserva-

tion, planning and museum communities. In 2002, the Program awarded its first annual NPS Interpretive Awards to Rock Creek Park and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. By rotating the location of public reviews of nominations, the Program has publicly emphasized the dispersion of the flight to freedom story from coast-to-coast and from the Mexican border to the Canadian border to the Caribbean.

(Continued on page 3)



Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing, St. Louis, Missouri, was listed as a site in the Network to Freedom, October 2001. The wayside, along St. Louis's North Riverfront Trail, was designed and beautified using local materials by Washington University architecture students and Grace Hill AmeriCorps Trail Rangers.



The Underground Railroad study Advisory Committee is among the crowd at Independence Square that watches the unveiling of the new Network to Freedom logo. *October 12, 2000*



Ann Cramer (Forest Service) and Steve Gordon (Ohio historic preservation office), hear the story of the Kelton House at the first charrette convened by the NPS to explore criteria for the Network to Freedom. *July 1999*

Network to Freedom 1998-2003



John P. Parker House, Ripley, Ohio, was listed in the Network to Freedom and received a Network to Freedom grant in 2002, the only year such grants were funded.



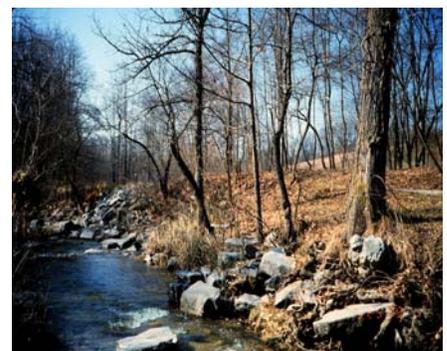
Barbara Tagger and Tara Morrison visit the River Road African American Museum & Gallery in Louisiana, a Network to Freedom facility, following a public review meeting in New Orleans. *April 2002*



The Old Courthouse in St. Louis, Missouri, part of the NPS Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (see the Arch in the background), was added to the Network to Freedom in recognition of the numerous fugitive slave case hearings held there. The Dred Scott case was also heard there.



California educators participating in the Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour, a program listed in the Network to Freedom, pause outside the Hamilton County library in Cincinnati, Ohio following a research visit. Photo courtesy of Black Voice News *2002*



Rocky Fork (Camp Warren Levis) in Illinois was listed in the Network to Freedom based largely on oral tradition. *September 2001*

Network to Freedom Turns 5

(Continued from page 1)

The story of the Underground Railroad is itself a testament to self-determination, a search for freedom, and a history of interracial cooperation in the face of great odds. The Network to Freedom Program has chosen to use "resistance to enslavement through flight" as its definition for the "Underground Railroad," not restricting its focus to even a loosely organized network of conductors and station managers during just the few decades preceding the Civil War. This definition has intensified the challenge in public education, yet enables the fuller portrayal of the courage of those seeking freedom, whether by running, stowing away on a ship, or joining the military during the Revolution, War of 1812, or Civil War. These inspiring heroes and heroines include women and men, blacks and whites, American Indians, and those of many religious groups.

The Network to Freedom exemplifies inclusiveness by embracing substantial African-American participation, in many instances for the first time, in the traditionally white-dominated historic preservation practice in the U.S. It is also reaching out to include Hispanic and American Indian participation in the Underground Railroad. The Program is among NPS' more unique endeavors that reaches both inside and outside the National Park System. Education on the Underground Railroad is directed at NPS employees, their local and State counterparts, and the general public. The Network to Freedom highlights untold stories in National Park units through documentation of resources and their inter-

pretation. Parks play an important part in telling the story and reaching out to communities, but potential Network to Freedom members from among non-NPS grassroots sites, facilities, and programs greatly outnumber possible NPS members.

Since the Program is charged with a "shared" leadership role with other local, State and Federal entities, as well as interested individuals and organizations, the Program is by nature a loose amalgam of diverse elements and constituents. The Network to Freedom Program was designed to emphasize coordination and facilitation of decentralized efforts at all levels of commemoration of this important story. In this role, the Program staff is faced with many different, often competing interests--public, private, Federal, State and local--as well as with diverse audiences. The story of the Underground Railroad is intensely local; at the same time it is international in scope and significance. The widespread, decentralized story of the Underground Railroad prevented Congress's commemoration efforts from concentrating on a specific park unit or collection of units, or from designating a long-distance trail. Thus, the Program's strengths -- diversity and on the ground decentralized external cooperation and facilitation -- are also some of the greatest challenges to its effective implementation and administration. Program staff continually strives to coordinate and facilitate widespread efforts through shared leadership.

The Network to Freedom staff wishes to thank all who have worked tirelessly to preserve this story.

Network Partners

Everything that the Network to Freedom program has become, just like the historic Underground Railroad itself, emerged out of local efforts across the United States. One role of the Network to Freedom Program is to make it easier for local groups to share expertise and information with the National Park Service and each other. The Network Partner program was developed to facilitate this networking activity. Partners work along side, and often in cooperation with, the National Park Service to fulfill the program's mission. They are closely involved in the entire process of preserving resources, commemorating, and educating the public about the Underground Railroad. Many partners have worked cooperatively with the National Park Service either in formal or informal roles to accomplish these activities

Current Partners include:

- African American Resource Center, New Hampshire, Valerie Cunningham, www.nhblackhistory.org and www.seacoastNH.com
- African American Tourism Council Of Maryland, Inc. Maryland, Louis Fields, www.hometown.aol.com/bbhtours
- Amed Literary, Inc., Pennsylvania, Emma Marie Trusty
- Ascension Lutheran Church, Ohio, Michael Daniels
- Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, Buxton, Ontario, Canada, Shannon Prince, www.buxtonmuseum.com
- Delaware Public Archives, Delaware, Timothy A. Slavin
- Florida Underground Railroad Project, Florida, Kristopher Smith
- G. Galin Berrier, Iowa
- Gary L. Knepp, Ohio
- Institute for Freedom Studies/Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky, Dr. Prince Brown, Jr., www.nku.edu/~freedom
- Juneteenth Festival Company, Virginia, Sheri Bailey, www.juneteenthva.org
- Kennett Underground Railroad Center, Pennsylvania, Marlene Drewes, www.UndergroundRR.Kennett.net

(Continued on page 4)

Network Partners

(Continued from page 3)

- Kentucky Underground Railroad Research Institute, Kentucky, Alicestyne Turley-Adams, Director
- Kimberly Simmons, Michigan
- L & P International, Virginia, Sandi Brewster-Walker, lpmeetings.biz
- North Star Productions, Inc., Kentucky, Shirley Mohrfield
- P.R.I.S.M! Educational Resource Company, New York, Gene Alexander, www.slavehistory.org
- Quachapele's Productions (TM), Kansas, Sista'h Queen A. Quachapele
- Renee Moore, New York
- Samuel L. Craig, Illinois
- Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida, Roger Clark, Chief Ranger
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Mississippi, Jim Wojtala
- University of Massachusetts Lowell, Center for Lowell History, Massachusetts, Martha Mayo, <http://library.uml.edu/clh/>
- Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office, Virgin Islands, Myron D. Jackson

For information on becoming a partner, contact your regional coordinator, or visit the Network to Freedom website at www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr.



Network Partner Myron Jackson of the Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Office is helping the Network to Freedom Program expand the story of the Underground Railroad into the Caribbean.

NPS Civic Engagement Policy Review

To Our National Park Service Friends and Partners,

As you know I greatly value the voices and involvement of partners and stakeholders as we go forth together managing the National Parks. To that end, I have created a new Director's Order to institute a consistent policy and approach for civic engagement and public involvement opportunities. I believe that together, we can ensure that the NPS continues and enriches its legacy of welcoming, collaborating with, and involving the public.

This Director's Order will convey to NPS employees the importance and priority of two-way communication, consistent with my approach to issues and challenges, and that of Secretary Norton and her 4 Cs principle of "consultation, cooperation, and communication in the service of conservation." The policy encompasses both a bright opportunity to engage the American public anew, welcome them to our National Parks, and comply in a superlative manner with all legally mandated public involvement in our decision-making.

This policy emphasis represents to me a much needed and, I hope, welcome focus on the positive ways in which we can carry out our management responsibilities for the

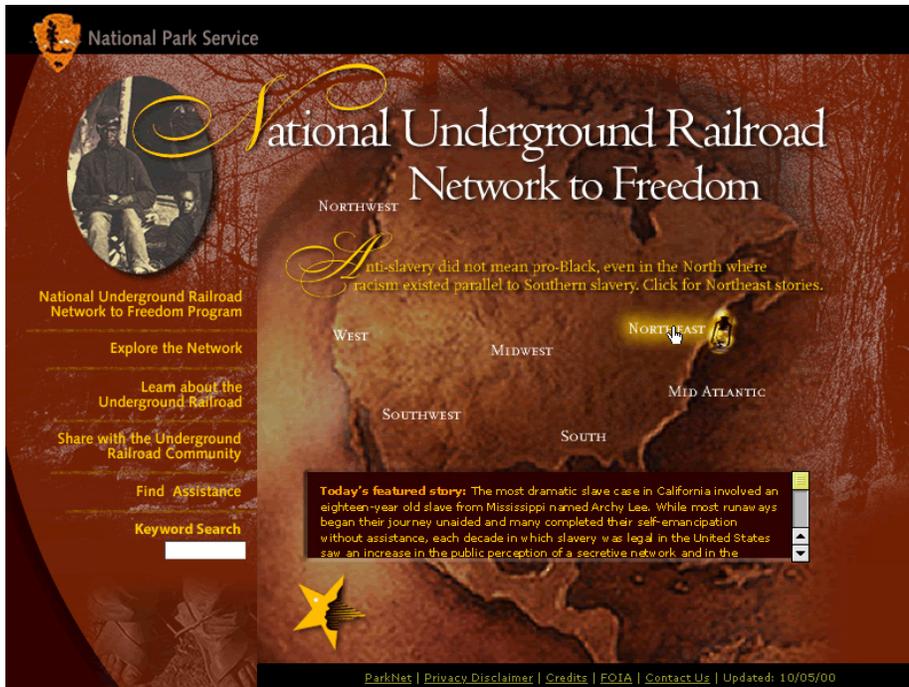


benefit of the American people. In that spirit, I invite each of you to comment on the proposed Director's Order on Civic Engagement and Public Involvement. The public comment period ends on September 15, 2003. For easy viewing and downloading, the policy is posted at <http://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/75A.htm>. Comments may be faxed to my Office of Policy and Regulations at 202-219-8835, emailed to waso_opr@nps.gov, or mailed to: National Park Service, Office of Policy and Regulations, 1849 C Street, NW Room 7252, Washington, DC, 20240.

Fran Mainella

Share with the Community

Save the Dates



Have you ever wanted to advertise an upcoming event with others interested in the Underground Railroad? Have you ever thought to yourself that the Underground Railroad stories you are uncovering must be made known to everyone so that they are not forgotten? Have you ever been bursting to tell someone of the fascinating events revealed in your research, and have them appreciate the importance of your information?

Well, now there is a forum to help you share this information.

The Network to Freedom website (www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr), has recently added the capability for you to post information about your upcoming events and to post stories of your community, told in your own words. To access these forums, follow the link to “Share with the Underground Railroad Community.” The Network to Freedom coordinators encourage you to post information to the site—we developed it as a tool for everyone to share.

Newsletter on the Web

The Network to Freedom newsletters are now available on our website under the “National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program” link, and then under “Program Reports and Information.” To view newsletter photographs in color, please check out the website.

In order to help us reduce costs, if you would like to receive future newsletters electronically, please send a note to diane_miller@nps.gov.

September 13 — Gathering, Meadville, Pennsylvania; contact Karen James, 717-783-9871

September 18 — Network to Freedom Application Public Review Meeting, Buffalo, New York; contact Tara Morrison, 215-597-9123

September 24-27 — ASALH 88th Annual Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, www.asalh.com/worthy/conference.htm

September 24-27 — Congressional Black Caucus, Annual Legislative Conference, Washington, DC; <http://www.cbconline.org/>

October 16-17 — NPS Midwest Region Underground Railroad Oral History Workshop, Chillicothe, Ohio, contact James Hill, 402-221-3413

October 17-19 — Friends of Freedom Society annual summit, Chillicothe, Ohio; www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org/summit8.htm

November 6-8 — Bound for Glory on the Bayou, Southeast Region Underground Railroad Gathering, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, contact Barbara Tagger 404-562-3108, x518

November 8 — Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 616-331-3285

November 17-20 — Joint Ventures--Partners in Stewardship, Los Angeles, California, www.partnerships2003.org

January 29-31, 2004 — Freedom in the Florida Territory: American and Caribbean Connections to the Underground Railroad; contact Diane Miller, 402-221-3749

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

One of the most difficult challenges facing the Network coordinators in reviewing new applications is striking a balance between inclusiveness and maintaining documentation standards for verifying Underground Railroad associations. This, the fifth round of applications, has had the highest success rate to date at 75%. The Network coordinators are committed to continuing this trend through working individually with applicants, conducting application workshops, and developing new guidance materials on documenting Underground Railroad sites and completing the application form.

District of Columbia

- Mary Ann Shadd Cary House [site]

Delaware

- Friends Meetinghouse & Cemetery [site]
- Tubman Garrett Riverfront Park and Market Street Bridge [site]

Florida

- Family Heritage House Museum [facility]

Indiana

- Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, Underground Railroad Initiative [program]

Maryland

- Catocin Iron Furnace and Manor House Ruins [site]
- Camp Stanton, USCT [site]

- Southern Maryland Studies Center [facility]

Michigan

- International Underground Railroad Heritage Program [program]

Nebraska

- Mayhew Cabin [site]

Virginia

- Oatlands Plantation [site]

Wisconsin

- Joshua Glover Marker, Monument Square [site]

Congratulations to all listings in the Network to Freedom. NPS appreciates your participation.

Heritage Tourism Initiatives

There are many issues surrounding efforts at heritage tourism. Done well, no doubt, it is an opportunity to bring the story of the Underground Railroad to the public in an engaging and memorable way. Children, and adults too, can learn things about our heritage that they would never receive in a classroom. Additionally, heritage tourism has the potential to bring money and economic development to struggling communities and can potentially increase the funds available for research and site preservation.

Commensurate with its potential opportunity, there are also challenges associated with developing heritage tourism. Some communities and sites may not have adequate infrastructure to handle increased visitation. Sometimes questions arise about how the history is interpreted, and who is tell-

ing the story—local site stewards, or tour company representatives. A number of communities are seizing the initiative. By documenting their history, erecting markers and signage, and developing brochure materials and websites, these communities are presenting their story on their own terms.

An excellent example of this is Clermont County, Ohio. Nestled on the Ohio River between Cincinnati and Ripley, Ohio, June Creager of the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) set out a few years ago to discover her own county's Underground Railroad connection. In a county that most believed did have a story to tell, researcher and Network to Freedom Partner Gary Knepp subsequently documented numerous sites, successfully nominating 19 to the Network

to Freedom—the largest number of any county to date. Further, the CVB developed a tour of Underground Railroad sites. This tour was also admitted to the Network to Freedom as an interpretive program. A color brochure, with maps and photos of about 33 sites in six communities orients visitors to the sites. It is available on the internet at www.clermontcvb-ohio.com/freedomtrailbrochure.pdf.

Having developed this heritage tourism product, the Clermont County CVB has been able to share information on its sites with other locales. Upon seeing the brochure, Eva Salter of the Ontario Ministry of Culture in St. Catharines, suggested a cooperative partnership to cross promote Clermont County and Ontario Underground Railroad heritage resources.

(Continued on page 7)

Candidates for Sixth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the sixth round of applications. On September 17, 2003, at the Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, 1170 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209, the NPS regional coordinator committee will review and vote on these applications. The public is invited to attend. For further information or to comment on the applications, please consult the Network website at www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr, or contact Diane Miller at National Park Service, 1709 Jackson St., Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or at 402-221-3749.

Facilities

DC

- Washingtoniana Division, DC Public Library

Pennsylvania

- Chester County Historical Society, West Chester
- Library and Archives, Erie County Historical Society, Erie
- Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg

Virginia

- Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County, The Plains

Programs

Kentucky

- Institute for Freedom Studies, Highland Heights

Maryland

- Frederick Douglass Heritage Trail & Underground Railroad Tour of Baltimore, Baltimore

Michigan

- Michigan Underground Railroad Tours and Programs, Grand Rapids

Sites

DC

- Asbury United Methodist Church, Washington
- Woodlawn Cemetery, Washington

Indiana

- Georgetown Historic District, Madison
- Historic Eleutherian College, Lancaster
- Lyman Hoyt House, Lancaster

Iowa

- Cincinnati Historic District, Cincinnati
- Deacon Theron Trowbridge House, Denmark
- Denmark Congregational United Church of Christ, Denmark
- Ira Blanchard Home Site and Cemetery, Percival
- Lewelling Quaker Museum, Salem

Kentucky

- White Hall, Augusta

Maryland

- Cooling Springs Farm, Adamstown

Massachusetts

- Hart and Mary Leavitt Home, Charlemont
- Roger Hooker and Keziah Leavitt Home, Charlemont

Michigan

- Jonathan Walker: Man with the Branded Hand Monument, Muskegon

New York

- Jervis Langdon Home, Elmira

North Carolina

- Great Dismal Swamp*, Gatesville, South Mills
- Roanoke Island Freedom Colony, Amendment, Manteo

Ohio

- Rankin House, Ripley

Pennsylvania

- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Lancaster
- First National Bank Museum, Montrose
- Francis B. Chandler House, Columbia
- William C. Goodridge House, York
- Zercher's Hotel, Christiana
- Willis House, York

Virginia

- Great Dismal Swamp*, Suffolk
 - Loudoun County Courthouse, Leesburg
 - Petersburg Courthouse, Petersburg
 - Sully Plantation, Chantilly
- ### Wisconsin
- Jonathan Walker's Homesite, Lyndon

*Site in both states

Contribute to the Newsletter

Help us to make the newsletter more informative and useful to the Underground Railroad community. Please forward items of interest, articles, or topic suggestions for consideration to Diane Miller at NPS, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or at diane_miller@nps.gov. Comments on the newsletter are also welcome.

Newsletter deadlines are January 15 and July 15 each year.

(Continued from page 6)

This summer, Creager, Salter, and Sandra Bradt of the Windsor/Exeter/Pelee Island Visitor and Convention Bureau, conducted a pilot project to exchange "lure brochures." The brochures were placed in visitor centers, with historic sites, and distributed by mail in response to inquiries related to African American or African Canadian history. Each group will track, as best as possible, the number of brochures distributed.

Discussions are underway about future opportunities for collaboration to share the work and expense of making the public aware of opportunities to explore this important aspect of our heritage. This is "an excellent way to leverage marketing dollars, especially for small organizations," observed June Creager. As the project develops, additional partners from other areas will be included.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
1709 JACKSON STREET
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



NATIONAL
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

National Park Service
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

www.cr.nps.gov/ugr

Diane Miller, **National**, diane_miller@nps.gov

James Hill, **Midwest**, james_hill@nps.gov

Jenny Masur, **National Capital**,
jenny_masur@nps.gov

Tara Morrison, **Northeast**,
tara_morrison@nps.gov

Barbara Tagger, **Southeast**,
barbara_tagger@nps.gov

Guy Washington, **Pacific West & Intermoun-
tain**, guy_washington@nps.gov

La Amistad



Lithograph by James or Isaac Sheffield,
New York Sun, 1839; Library of Congress

In 1839, a group of Africans captured from the Mende tribe of Sierra Leone rebelled aboard the ship *La Amistad*, which was transporting them from Havana to Puerto Principe in Cuba. Led by Sengbe Pieh, called Joseph Cinquez by the Spanish, the Africans seized control of the schooner, attempting to return to Africa. The arrival of the vessel off the shore of Long Island sparked great interest in the North and sup-

port among antislavery forces. The subsequent legal case against the Africans made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Their legal team, led by ex-President John Quincy Adams, argued successfully for their freedom. In 1842, an American ship carried thirty-nine Africans back to Freetown, Sierra Leone. Over fifty slave ship rebellions have been documented; the story of *La Amistad* stands as a strong symbol of African resistance to slavery and a reminder that ships represented routes to freedom, as well as tools of enslavement. *Amistad*, a film by Steven Spielberg, provides an accurate and powerful representation of this incident. The freedom schooner *Amistad* has been replicated and is operated by a non-profit organization, Amistad America, Inc., which seeks to perpetuate the legacy of freedom through educational programs and visits to U.S. port cities.
www.amistadamerica.org