



# Network to Freedom



## New Bedford, Massachusetts Third Graders Learn Underground Railroad History

*No colored man is really free in a slaveholding state. He wears the badge of bondage while nominally free, and is often subjected to hardships to which the slave is a stranger; but here in New Bedford, it was my good fortune to see a pretty near approach to freedom on the part of the colored people.* Frederick Douglass, 1855



New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Ranger Frank Barrows, with local elementary school students.

by Frank Barrows

In the spring of 2004, third graders at Hayden-McFadden Elementary School in New Bedford, Massachusetts were immersed in local Underground Railroad history. They learned about escaped slaves like Frederick Douglass and Henry Box Brown, black and white abolitionists involved in New Bedford's Underground Railroad story, the legacy of the 54th Regiment, and many of the factors that made New Bedford an alluring stop on the network of

people, places, and events that helped shape the Underground Railroad.

Using local historic sites, historical societies, and museums, the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks require third graders to learn about Massachusetts history, the history of their cities, and the famous people and events in Massachusetts history. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park partnered with the New Bedford Public Schools to help teachers

and students explore Underground Railroad sites in New Bedford. Park Rangers shared expertise and resources with the third grade teachers at Hayden-McFadden and provided the entire third grade class with a PowerPoint overview of New Bedford sites and stories of the many escaped slaves who found freedom in New Bedford. The students followed up with a field trip to New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park where they earned junior ranger badges for

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## Park Partners with Local School

completing an Underground Railroad Scavenger Hunt in the park. The scavenger hunt was designed using the Massachusetts Curriculum for third grade students. Using maps, students had to navigate the historic streets of New Bedford looking for places and objects related to the Underground Railroad.

An estimated 300 - 700 escaped slaves lived in New Bedford between the mid - 1840s and 1860. New Bedford was attractive to escaping slaves from the south for many reasons. The whaling industry made the city both wealthy and in constant need of labor. The city was an active part of a coastal trading system that regularly traded manufactured goods for raw goods in southern ports— providing opportunities for escaping slaves to stow away amid ships' cargoes. Quakers, who controlled the city's political and economic life into the 1820s, had taken an early stand against slavery and helped build anti-slavery sentiment in New Bedford. The city also had a large population of color that was very involved in anti-slavery activity since at least the

1820s.

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996. The Park works in partnership with municipal and state agencies, non-profit institutions and community groups to preserve and interpret the story of America's 19th century whaling history and related themes. The importance of in-



Upon arriving in New Bedford in September 1838, Frederick Johnson (known as Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey in slavery) took the new name Frederick Douglass while staying at the Nathan and Polly Johnson House. (Listed in the NTF in September 2001)

terpreting the story of the Underground Railroad and the contributions of people of color in New Bedford were incorporated in the park's planning documents, including the General Management Plan and Long Range Interpretive Plan. In interpreting these stories, the park works closely with the New Bedford Historical Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1996 to preserve and celebrate the heritage of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Native Americans, West Indians, and other people of color in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

## Friends' Group

The meeting of the Friends of the Underground Railroad was convened at the offices of the National Parks Conservation Association on April 29, 2004. Iantha Gantt-Wright facilitated the meeting and opened with a moment of quiet reflection which people were asked to use in any way they found more helpful in helping them to be centered and focused on the best outcomes for the first official Friends meeting. Twelve people participated in the meeting which was a follow-up to the Friends Group meeting convened by Barbara Woods in Washington, DC in February 2003. Dr. Woods has had some health challenges this year and as such has not been able to engage as much as she would like. Iantha Gantt-Wright has been retained by the National Park Foundation to launch the group, building on the earlier foundation.

The goal of the meeting was to move the establishment of a Friends Group to the next stage. Discussion at the meeting began with the endangered status of the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. In addition to supporting the Network to Freedom program, the group identified ways that the Friends Group could assist local efforts around the country. The vision for, and mission of, the Friends Group was the primary topic for much of the day. Organizational structure was another subject of discussion. Before adjourning,

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## Friends' Group

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the group made assignments and committees for completing organizational tasks. Through electronic mail and conference calls, work has continued throughout the summer on getting the group formally established. To get the group formally started, the following officers were selected: Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher, President; Peter Michaels, Treasurer; Iantha Gantt-Wright, Recording Secretary.

In connection with the Network to Freedom regional coordinators meeting and public nomination review in Baltimore this September, the Friends Group will hold its first public event. On September 17-18, Friends of the Underground Railroad will host a reception, tour of Baltimore Underground Railroad sites, and a workshop/gathering.

For further information about the Friends Group, or for information about the September event, please contact Friends of the Underground Railroad, 938 E. Swann Creek Road, Suite 125, Fort Washington, MD 20774; 301/560-0170.

### Contribute to the Newsletter

Please forward items of interest, articles, or topic suggestions for consideration to Diane Miller at NPS, 601 Riverfront Dr., Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or at [diane\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:diane_miller@nps.gov). Comments on the newsletter are also welcome.

Deadlines are January 15 and July 15.

## Dr. John Doy Site, Lawrence, Kansas is Focus of Attention

by Judy Sweets

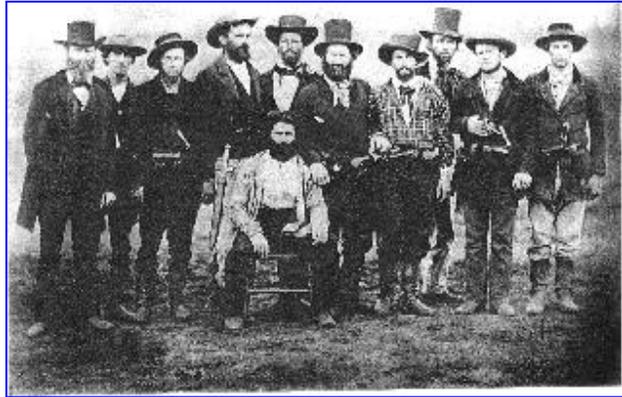
Dr. John Doy, a native Englishman and ardent abolitionist from Rochester, New York settled in Lawrence, Kansas Territory with his wife and nine children in 1854. He staked his claim to 160 acres about three miles northwest of the newly-formed town and built his home.

Doy and his family lived there for five years through some of the most stirring incidents of the "Bleeding Kansas" era.

In January, 1859 John Doy and John Brown each left Lawrence separately with groups of "freedom seekers" bound for Canada. John Brown's group successfully made the long trip north but Dr. Doy's group was ambushed about 12 miles north of Lawrence. The freedom-seekers were returned to slavery and Doy was imprisoned in Missouri jails charged with "slave stealing." Just before his Supreme Court trial, Doy was rescued by ten men sent from Lawrence, later named "The Immortal Ten." Doy is recognized as one of the primary conductors

on the Kansas Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad Association of Douglas County, Kansas successfully applied to include the John Doy site in the



"Abolitionist, Dr. John Doy, seated, is shown with "The Immortal Ten" on the day he arrived in Lawrence, Kansas Territory after being rescued from the St. Joseph, Missouri jail in the summer of 1859."

Photo by A.G. Dalee.

"Network to Freedom." Although the Doy house is no longer standing, the ruins are being investigated by archeologists.

### UPDATES:

- The property owner was so pleased to receive "Network to Freedom" designation for the Doy site that he now plans to preserve more than 30 acres adjacent to the site.
- The Doy site was one of three local Underground Railroad sites recently featured on "Sunflower Journeys," a program produced by KTWU-TV, Topeka, Kansas.
- UGRR Association member, Mark Volmut, recently republished John Doy's 1860 book, "The Narrative of John Doy of Lawrence, Kansas: A Plain Unvarnished Tale." This book is now available for purchase by contacting [moonland1@sunflower.com](mailto:moonland1@sunflower.com).
- Plans are underway for a more extensive archeological investigations.
- Tolly and Wayne Wildcat and Judy Sweets of *Kansas Tours*, led three bus tours to the Doy site on June 19th as part of the first annual Juneteenth celebration held in Lawrence, Kansas. For more information contact *Kansas Tours* at [kansastours@sunflower.com](mailto:kansastours@sunflower.com).

# Congratulations to the New Network Listings

At a public meeting in San Bernardino, CA, on March 31, NPS accepted the following sites, programs, and facilities into the Network to Freedom. The Network now includes 181 listings in 26 states and DC.

## California

California State Library [facility]  
Mary Ellen Pleasant Burial Site [site]

## DC

Blanche K. Bruce House [site]  
[Howard University] Moorland Spingarn Research Center [facility]  
Washingtoniana Division., Martin Luther King Library [facility]

## Delaware

Delaware State House [site]  
New Castle Courthouse [site]  
Star Hill Historical Society [program]

## Florida

Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas NP [site]

## Iowa

J.H.B. Armstrong House [site]  
Denmark Congregational Church [site]  
Ira Blanchard Home Site and Cemetery [site]  
Lewelling-Gibbs House [site]

## Kentucky

White Hall [site]

## Maryland

Belair Mansion [site]  
Marietta House [site]

## Massachusetts

Discovering New Bedford's Underground Railroad History, New Bedford Whaling NHP [program]  
Hart and Mary Leavitt House [site]  
Roger Hooker and Keziah Leavitt House [site]

## Michigan

Jonathan Walker Grave and Marker [site]  
Journey to Freedom Underground Railroad Tours [program]

## North Carolina

Colonial Park [site]

## Ohio

Bunker Hill House [site]  
King Family Cemetery [site]  
Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. [facility]  
Westwood Cemetery [site]

## Pennsylvania

Historical Society of Pennsylvania [facility]  
State Library of Pennsylvania [facility]

## Tennessee

Stones River NB [site]

## Texas

The Resurrection of Harriet Tubman, Escape to Freedom [program]  
Seminole Indian Scouts Cemetery [site]

## Virginia

Monclure Conway House [site]

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## Guided Tours

by John Beck

"You gave us a great tour when I was a kid, and I brought my own kids to go with us this time!"

Touring a historic house or landscape with a guide can be one of the most rewarding and effective ways of learning about our heritage. It's not uncommon for the intimacy, attention, and provocation of a park ranger's tour to have significant, lasting impressions on visitors. What better way to interpret your resource than with a guide, the most flexible of all "media." At the same time, managers need to be aware that this is among the most expensive of interpretive services. In this time of shrinking budgets, that means our guided tours must be nothing less than superior. But planning and conducting a guided tour that may change an attitude or help select a career path takes more than a stunning landscape or furnished room. Here is some advice from National Park Service training documents and over thirty years of experience with guided tours. Use it and your tours may change a future.

First, arrive at the gathering area at least ten minutes before the tour starts. Invite persons nearby to join the trip. Introduce yourself and make conversation. Encourage the same within the group. "Breaking the ice" on your part not only builds rapport, it also provides opportunities for general site orientation and informal interpretation. The key is to meet everyone personally. Start the tour "on time." Reintroduce yourself in a short greeting just in case you missed someone. Use a voice and tone that establishes your leadership role without sounding authoritative.

Review the basic information, themes, expected outcomes, and ground rules in a brief introduction, and move on quickly to your first stop. Your guests are anxious to tour, so don't discourage them with a long discourse as orientation. Keep in mind that your first stop should be within view of your starting point so latecomers can catch up with the group. Set the pace between stops on the slowest members of the group, but stay "in the lead" to encourage everyone on to the next point of interest.

To encourage informality and a conversational style, try to speak from the edge of a loose circle of guests. A useful trick for forming such circles is to move a few paces beyond your stopping point, then backtrack into the group. Position yourself at the trail edge or defining space overlooking or adjacent to the subject of interest and your group will generally form a comfortable, focused circle. Try to stay with your conversational voice during your presentations. If you have to raise your voice or use amplification, you are stretching the limits of an effective tour. If "being heard" is a chronic problem, you need to reevaluate the tour and make adjustments to reinforce the attributes - intimate, informal, conversational, personal - that make guided tours so special.

If you get a question on the tour, repeat it for all to hear, then follow with your answer. Chances are, if you're experienced with the tour and have listened carefully, you have already incorporated the answers to most questions in

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# Candidates for Eighth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the eighth round of applications. On September 15, 2004, at the Patriot's Room at Fort McHenry, the 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](http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr), or contact Diane Miller at National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or at 402-661-1588.

## Sites

### California

- Mary Ellen Pleasant Memorial, San Francisco

### Florida

- Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park, Key Biscayne

### Iowa

- Theron Trowbridge Site, Denmark

### Illinois

- Congregational Church, Jacksonville
- Gillett House, Jacksonville
- Illinois College, Jacksonville
- Old Slave House, Equality
- Woodlawn Farm, Jacksonville

### Indiana

- Georgetown District, Madison
- Tibbets Home

### Kansas

- Quindaro Ruins, Kansas City

### Kentucky

- John Gregg Fee Farm, Augusta
- Chalfont "Rock House" Farm, Foster

### Maryland

- Roedown Farm, Davidsonville
- Site of Arrest of William Chaplin, Silver Spring

### Massachusetts

- Joshua Bowen Smith House, Cambridge

### New York

- Hunterfly Road Houses, Weeksville, Brooklyn
- Matilda Joslyn Gage House, Fayetteville

### North Carolina

- Shallowbag Bay-Roanoke Island, Manteo
- Pasquotank River, Pasquotank and Camden Counties
- Pasquotank County Court House, Elizabeth City

### Ohio

- Haines House, Alliance

### Virginia

- Downtown Norfolk Waterfront, Norfolk
- Freedom House [Franklin & Armfield Office], Alexandria

## Programs

### Kansas

- Kansas Travel, Lawrence

### Maryland

- The Rural Legacy Trail: Underground Railroad Experience, Sandy Spring

### Ohio

- Untitled [Tour of Cincinnati UGRR sites], Cincinnati

### Pennsylvania

- The Quest for Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Philadelphia; Philadelphia

### Wisconsin

- Caroline Quarles: She's Got a Story to Tell, Madison

## Facilities

### New York

- Onondaga Historical Association Museum and Research Center, Syracuse

### West Virginia

- West Virginia State Archives, Charleston

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## Tours

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your presentation. A question is one thing, but what about discovery, the encounter with the unexpected? Discovery is a wonderful interpretive opportunity that cannot be ignored. A school of dolphins playing within reach of your dock will render an Underground Railroad talk useless. So indulge the dolphins with some interpretation and, if possible, incorporate them somewhere in your theme. But keep in mind that discovery occurs on its own schedule, and, at

times, it must run its course. Other times, you can exert your leadership carefully, and move on.

Just as every tour has a starting point, there should be a definite ending point. Decelerate the group mood by summarizing the experience, reinforcing themes and subthemes, listing some of the stops, and recounting any discoveries. Help your guests form personal emotional linkages with the tangible resources they have just encountered. Always thank your guests for being a part of your tour and ask them to join you again.

Successful tours always end in conversation and more questions. Plan on being available for at least ten minutes for this activity. Oftentimes at this stage, the boundaries between visitor/guest and leader/ranger dissolve into friendship. If you find your tours repeatedly ending in the "friendship mode," chances are you have made some significant and lasting impressions. If your impressions reach deep enough to impact attitude, opinion, belief, and behavior, you have achieved success as an interpreter. May your guided tours have grandchildren.

# New York Underground Railroad Heritage Trail

by Cordell Reeves

New York has designated a new Statewide Underground Railroad Heritage Trail. The new trail will help to preserve historic sites and educate visitors about New York State's major role in the Underground Railroad, the anti-slavery movement and African-American history. "The Underground Railroad Heritage Trail initiative will highlight the unique role New York's communities played in a great struggle for human liberty in American history - the fight for the end of slavery," Governor George Pataki said. "Through this program, we will preserve and formally recognize many of the significant historic sites throughout New York that are associated with the Underground Railroad and the anti-slavery movement."

After a rigorous review process, the Heritage Trail Program's Site Designation Committee determined that 24 sites met the documentation criteria for the program. Historic sites that are ap-

proved for inclusion on the Heritage Trail are eligible to apply for a \$1 million grant program that the Governor will release later this summer for Underground Railroad Heritage Trail sites.



Starr Clark Tin Shop in Mexico, New York, a Network to Freedom site, is one of the 24 properties designated on the Heritage Trail.

New York State was at the forefront of the Underground Railroad movement and was a major destination for escaped slaves. Many nationally renowned abolitionists lived in New York such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Gerrit Smith, Sojourner Truth and John Brown.

New York was a destination of choice for many escaped slaves who made the difficult journey toward freedom.

"Thanks to Governor Pataki's leadership, this heritage trail will foster a greater public understanding of New York's instrumental role in this important chapter of American history. When tourists from throughout the nation visit these sites, they will find that they exemplify the spirit and essence of the word freedom," said Richard White-Smith, Executive Director of Heritage New York. The program is being implemented by Heritage New York, which is coordinating the development of five Heritage Trails that the Governor has announced to date: Revolutionary War, Underground Railroad, Theodore Roosevelt, Labor and Woman's Heritage Trails. In addition to administering grant programs, Heritage New York is developing a web site, site markers, and brochures to promote heritage trails.

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## *From Shackles to Freedom* Exhibit Opens in Byron, Illinois

by Dawn M. Johnson

This winter, the Byron Museum of History and Lucius Read House in Byron, Illinois, completed a four-part exhibit entitled *From Shackles to Freedom*. The exhibit is designed to convey aspects of life as a slave, present the bravery and ingenuity of fugitive slaves and those who aided them, and tell the story of local individuals who were dedicated to the abolition of slavery. This information is presented through photographs, reproduc-

tion artifacts, news articles, storyboards, maps, music and a unique sampler quilt. Five panels scattered throughout the exhibit list the chronological history of slavery, abolitionism and the Underground Railroad.

The first section of the exhibit presents a brief overview of life as a slave; it includes a pair of shackles, photographs, auction posters and other items. The second section features general information about the Underground Railroad, including sig-

nificant people, a color map showing routes, an audio unit featuring the song *Follow the Drinking Gourd* and a sampler quilt accompanied by information about signal quilts and other covert communication methods used by slaves.

The third section focuses on Underground Railroad activities in Byron and the strong abolitionist views of Byron residents. Featured here is the story of the Read family and their participa-

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# Network to Freedom Grant Helps Endangered Site

by Chris Meinhardt

A Network to Freedom site in Topeka, Kansas is significant for activities carried out by the Northern faction of emigrants to Kansas Territory in the 1850s. Constitution Hall-Topeka, listed in May 2001, housed the free state convention that in 1855 produced a state constitution banning slavery and slave indentures. However, according to political practices following the Missouri Compromise Act of 1820, Kansas was expected to be pro slavery. Both the North and the South sent emigrants to settle the land and to vote. A six-year battle between the sides ensued, providing Kansas Territory the historic period name “bleeding Kansas.”

Constitution Hall was begun in 1855 as the first masonry building in the town that became the state capital in 1861. In addition to its use as the free state capital, the building held many settlement activities including as a



Much of the original building fabric exists under the modern storefront.

headquarters for the free state militia guarding the Lane Trail to Freedom. Church meetings were a pretext for secret UGRR planning meetings in its primitively finished rooms.

In 2002, the building was the subject of historical investigation funded by a grant of the NTF with matching funds from the City of Topeka. The architectural historian and restoration planner William Seale authenticated the site, described the condition of the building, and presented its historical significance in a report entitled, *Constitution Hall-Topeka: Historical Investi-*

*gation and Proposal for a Museum.*

Slated for demolition in 1997, the building was rescued at the last minute by citizens, but local and state historical officials were unable to assist through various preservation programs. Only by its designation in the NTF was recognition of its UGRR history bestowed, without which the preservation effort would have collapsed. Subsequent local government and new private funds allowed for essential repairs including the installation of a temporary new roof.

The recent site study eloquently affirms the historical significance of the building where slavery was banned in a grass roots constitutional convention. Through the many forms of partnership resulting from participation in the NTF program, William Seale notes that “the objective is to bring Constitution Hall to its proper place as a landmark in state and national history.”

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## Exhibit

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tion in aiding fugitive slaves. This section includes a large reproduction of a 1900 Byron newspaper with an article by Lydia Read Artz about her childhood memories of slaves arriving at night from Polo, Illinois. Notable stories found here include Lucius Read’s role in the Congregational church, the story of Addie Parsons (Lucius Read’s stepdaughter) a volunteer with the 92nd Illinois Infantry, news articles of interviews with UGRR conductors from Polo and more.

The final section of the exhibit

includes a map showing Underground Railroad routes through Illinois, discusses the role of Congregationalists in Byron and other areas of Illinois, features information on Attorney Abraham Lincoln’s role in two Illinois slavery cases and culminates with an overview of the Civil War. Of particular note is the story of Byron resident John M. King who volunteered for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Illinois and fought in several significant battles. A reproduction of a Union infantry uniform also accompanies the exhibit.

This exhibit and others are located in the Lucius Read House, which was recognized as an NTF site in 2002, and an adjoining

building houses additional exhibits. The Byron Museum was started in 1990 by a group of Byron residents who had the determination to preserve the Read house and the rich history of Byron. The museum also features exhibits about baseball legend A.G. Spalding, the Read family, area schools, the importance of railroads to Byron’s growth, clamming on the Rock River and much more. The facility is open year ‘round, staffed by four part-time employees and numerous volunteers. Funding through local tax dollars means admission is always free. The building is handicapped accessible. To learn more, please visit, [www.byronmuseum.org](http://www.byronmuseum.org).

# Ft. Mose: Flight to Freedom

by Nancy Christensen

St Augustine hosts perhaps the earliest link to the Network to Freedom with Ft Mose, the first free Black settlement in North America, 1738-1763. Gracia Real De Santa Teresa De Mose was set up by the Spanish on the north side of St Augustine to provide a first defense against the British in Georgia and the Carolinas. The fort was built by escaping slaves under the protection of the Spanish Crown in 1738. It was destroyed by the British, re-built and occupied for eleven more years. The Spanish and free blacks abandoned it when Florida was yielded to the British in 1763. Time destroyed the largely natural construction of the fort the second time, along with Henry Flagler, who dredged the location for fill dirt to build his fancy hotels in the heart of St. Augustine in the 1800s.



Francisco Menendez Trains his Militia with 1738 Black Powder muskets. The African-American militia of Ft Mose served as the first line of Defense for St Augustine in 1738.

You can help St Augustine's Ft Mose Society re-create the fort. Early each February the Society dramatizes the story with the re-enactment entitled "Flight to Freedom." Groups of ten to twenty visitors are led along a forested marshland path where they encounter several costumed interpreters in different roles. Eventually, they meet a Black militia being trained at Ft Mose by Captain Francisco Menendez, the Black founder of Ft Mose. The tour ends with a demonstration of firing black powder rifles.

A boardwalk through the property has been built and three informational kiosks will be added on the recently purchased additional 14 acres.

On February 5, 2005 (in conjunction with the Superbowl to be held the next day in Jacksonville), the public re-enactment will be a bigger event than ever. Together with Ft Castillo de San Marcos and the trolley trains running visitors the two miles between sites, this free event promises to be educational as well as entertaining. Along with the dramatization, the plan is for period-uniformed

NFL players to be on hand for an autographing meet and greet. A period craft show will be held on the property, as well as live music performances by

culturally relevant stage acts. Already billed are Olorun and Sea Island Singers. OLORUN is a West African ensemble whose performance highlights traditional West African culture. The Sea Island Singers sing in the patois of the slaves of that period.

Join us in this celebration of Ft Mose. We are still looking for African-American NFL players or former NFL players that would be interested in participating in this FREE event. Also Afro-American re-enactors, craftspeople making period crafts, Afro-American black

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## Announcements

### NTF Coordinator Changes

Northeast Coordinator Tara Morrison has accepted a detail appointment to work on the National Park Service African Burial Ground Technical Assistance Project. Tara will continue her association with the Network to Freedom program, but day to day work in the Northeast Region will be covered by Sheri Jackson who has joined the Network to Freedom Program. Sheri may be reached at [sheri\\_jackson@nps.gov](mailto:sheri_jackson@nps.gov) or 215-597-7050.

### New Address for NTF Coordinators

The NPS Midwest Regional Office has moved to a new building. Contact information for Diane Miller and James Hill has changed:

Address: NPS, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102

Diane 402-661-1588  
James 402-661-1590

### Calls for Papers

Harriet Beecher Stowe Center and Gilder Lehrman Center invite proposals for papers for its 2005 symposium "Finding People, Underground Railroad Travelers: Research and Family History". The symposium will include scholars, family historians, and genealogical researchers. For more information, contact Dr. Michael Radice at [mradice@stowecenter.org](mailto:mradice@stowecenter.org). The deadline for proposals is October 15, 2004.

The Organization of American Historians and the National Council on Public History will hold a joint conference in Washington, DC, April 19-22, 2006. The program committee invites proposals papers or sessions that explore the theme of "Our America" and the transformation of US society through immigration to and migration within the Americas. Proposals should be submitted electronically, beginning October 1, 2004, at [www.oah.org/meetings/2006/](http://www.oah.org/meetings/2006/).

### Upcoming Events

"Friends of the Underground Railroad Gathering" at Baltimore, Maryland,

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## Announcements

including a tour, reception, exhibits, and panel discussions; September 17-18, 2004; contact Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher at 301-560-0170 or [fulcherelizabeth@hotmail.com](mailto:fulcherelizabeth@hotmail.com).

"A Sacred Trust" at Anacostia Museum, Washington, DC. Religious Archives Institute (for church archivists & historians); September 16-18, 2004; contact Shelia Montague Parker at 202-610-3291 or [parkers@si.edu](mailto:parkers@si.edu).

"Borderlands III Underground Railroad Conference" at Northern Kentucky University; National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; September 16-18, 2004; contact 859-572-5817 or <http://www.nku.edu/~freedom/borderlandsIII/index.php>.

"Building Collective Narratives: Teaching Michigan's Stories A Curriculum Forum for Educators and Researchers" at First Congregational Church of Detroit; October 8, 2004; contact Dr. Michelle Johnson, 517-335-2726.

"Civil War Contributions of South Carolina's Blacks", 2004 Civil War Conference at Charleston Riverview Hotel; October 14-16, 2004; contact Ben Hawley, 301-942-3964 or [29thconn@comcast.net](mailto:29thconn@comcast.net).

"Station Hope: The Final Terminus" 9th annual Ohio Underground Railroad Summit at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, Independence, Ohio; October 15-17; contact Friends of Freedom Society President Don Ross; 614-596-5335 or [President@OhioUndergroundRailroad.org](mailto:President@OhioUndergroundRailroad.org).

### New Publications

Henry Burke, *Washington County Underground Railroad* (Ohio)

Barbara Olenyik Morrow, *A Good Night for Freedom* (children's book on Levi Coffin)

Gerald Allen Wunsch, *Curiosity* (children find an underground railroad site)

## Freedoms in Jeopardy: A Virginia Slave and Margaret Carrell

by Melinda Day

For the last 257 years, Harpers Ferry women have labored as pioneers, wives, mothers, healers, landowners, teachers, slaves, shop and hotelkeepers, seamstresses, cotton mill girls, and charity workers. Normally, roles as managers and decision makers were associated with men's work. Margaret Carrell's story illustrates how Harpers Ferry women stepped out of the shadows, whether by choice or circumstance, and took on non-traditional roles during the Industrial Revolution.

Usually, nineteenth century women were not proprietors of hotels, owners or renters of slaves, or instrumental in assisting slaves to escape. Margaret Carrell was all of these. Her husband, Eli, died in 1850

from cholera. They had been married 15 years and had built a large hotel establishment in the downtown merchant district at the Point. A local attorney, Isaac Fouke, was appointed to run Margaret's finances while she remained proprietress of the hotel.

In addition to her own eleven slaves, Margaret rented slave Robert Jackson, in November 1853, from the Pendelton family in nearby Martinsburg. Mrs. Carrell hired an overseer to manage her slaves. The overseer objected to Jackson's behavior and attempted to beat him. Jackson resisted and, in turn, beat the overseer. The overseer reported Jackson's resistance to Mrs. Carrell and Jackson's owner.

In William Still's 1872 book, *The Underground Railroad*, Robert Jackson revealed how events unfolded that made him decide to runaway. "*Of Mrs. Carrell, he[Robert] speaks in very grateful terms, saying that she was kind to him and all the servants, and promised them their freedom at her death. She excused herself for not giving them their freedom on the ground that her husband died insolvent, leaving her the responsibility of settling his debts.*"



1859 view of "The Point". *Historic Photo Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP*

But while Mrs. Carroll was very kind to her servants, her manager was equally as cruel." The overseer was instructed that if Robert resisted punishment again, "the overseer was to put him [Robert] in prison and sell him. Whether he offended again or not, the following Christmas he was to be sold without fail. [Mrs Carrell] was kind enough to apprise him of the intention of his owner..., and told him [Robert] that if he could help himself he had better do so." So from that time, Robert began to contemplate how he should escape the doom which had been planned for him". Robert ran away with several other slaves, the Mattersons. "... one Saturday night, at twelve o'clock we set out for the North." The Mattersons were caught in Maryland, but Robert made his way safely to Canada.

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MIDWEST REGION  
601 RIVERFRONT DRIVE  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

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

**NOTE: New Address**  
National Park Service  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, Nebraska 68102  
www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr

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Sheri Jackson, **Northeast**, sheri\_jackson@nps.gov

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## Ft. Mose

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powder shooters, and performers of relevant cultural art and music. (To participate, contact Kemet House, (904)403-6960, Volume Burks, KemetHouse@Bellsouth.net)

Three annual events are held in St Augustine for fundraising and publicizing the Ft Mose story: For more information on the Lincolnville Festival--a celebration of African-American music and craft fair--this year on October 29-31 at 399 Riberia St in St Augustine, contact (904)797-8940. We invite you to become a member of the Ft Mose Society and add your name to the list of sponsors! (Ft Mose Society, PO Box 4230, St Augustine, FL 32085-4230)

## Margaret Carrell

*(Continued from page 9)*

If Jackson had been caught, he could have implicated Mrs. Carrell in his escape. Criminal charges could have been brought against her by Jackson's owner. Mrs. Carrell's willingness to advise a slave that did not belong to her to runaway, jeopardized her own personal freedom and represented extremely risky behavior on her part. Her motivation to reach out to a slave in his hour of need could have brought her world crashing down around her. Margaret Carrell stepped out of the 19th century norm for women and slave owners. Regardless of her motivation, she became a member of a select few who chose to take a financial, legal, and criminal risk in order to perform an act of human kindness.