



Network to Freedom



Freedom in Oklahoma

The Tulsa State Fair and the National Park Service's (NPS) National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program (NTF), through the coordination of



Nighttime at the Underground Railroad Experience Exhibit, Tulsa State Fair

Platinum Entertainment brought an exhibit, including artifacts, photographs, multi-media presentations, literature and merchandise to the 2006 Tulsa State Fair. Visitors learned about the struggle for freedom, the places and people associated with it, and the role of Indian tribes in the Underground Railroad.

The public attending the Tulsa

State Fair was "hungry" for an educational exhibit like the one on the Underground Railroad. Aside from the livestock judging and the concerts, most of the fair consisted of amusement rides and vendors. The measure of success set by fair director Rick Bjorklund for the NPS exhibit was 8000 visitors over the two weeks; instead 12,000 visitors viewed the exhibit. Most visitors did not just do a quick walk

through of the exhibit but looked carefully at artifacts and photographs, reading the captions and pointing out items to their children. Some visitors were so interested in the exhibit's content that they stayed to watch part or all of an hour-long video.

Manager Guy Washington went above and beyond the call of duty in his work planning and executing the Tulsa State Fair exhibit. In addition to NPS materials, Washington arranged to include Stephen Marc's photographic collages on the Underground Railroad and Jerry Gore's artifacts related to slavery. Jerry Gore, the collector of the artifacts and the great-grandson of a freedom seeker, is a powerful interpreter of the Underground Railroad, winning the confidence and attention of all who met him.

Washington also developed special exhibit material related to the Underground Railroad in Oklahoma. People coming to the tent might know of Harriet Tubman, but many did not know about the Black Seminole Scouts or runaway ads related to their region, ads like those displayed in a tabletop dis-



Stephen Marc's photos flank visitors watching a video

Network to Freedom Regional Program

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Nathan and Polly Johnson House Renovated

Joan Beaubian, Executive Director, New Bedford Historical Society

The New Bedford Historical Society (NBHS) Incorporated, a 501©3 organization, was founded in 1996 to research, document and celebrate the legacy of African Americans, American Indians, Cape Verdeans, West Indians and other people of color in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Coincidentally, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established at the same time and the two entities developed a partnership.

Through the assistance of National Park Service and local historians, NBHS documented the national importance of Nathan and Polly Johnson House and acquired National Historic Landmark status in 2000. Frederick Douglass and his wife Anna were welcomed in September 1838 by Nathan and Polly Johnson, well connected African American abolitionists. When Frederick and Anna arrived they were using the surname Johnson, a pseudonym picked up during his escape from slavery in Maryland. Nathan Johnson advised him to change this name to avoid confusion with the many Johnsons already in New Bedford. (It seems 30 or more fugitives had already chosen that name.) Nathan Johnson was reading *Lady of the Lake* by Sir Walter Scott and the hero of the tale was Douglas. Though Frederick said later the name suited Nathan more than himself; he accepted the name, added an “s” and became Frederick Douglass.

The Nathan and Polly Johnson

House is now the headquarters of the NBHS which has drafted plans to interpret Douglass’ story in a future museum. An “Interpretive study” funded by an NPS Cost Challenge grant, has been completed. The plans include telling the story of slavery and the Underground Railroad as it relates to local history. Seventh Street, on which the house is located, has been dubbed “Abolitionists’ Row,”

help of Phillip Marshall, professor of Historic Preservation from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, and a complete paint analysis by Brian Pfeiffer, formerly of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Jacquelyn Hallsmith and Janine DaSilva, with architects Tobin, Turk and Larry, coordinated architectural plans.

Fortunately, one of the neighbors, who passed house daily, was a staff person of Senator Ted Kennedy. With their encouragement, NBHS applied for a grant from Housing and Urban Development which awarded \$223K for exterior restoration.

With the assistance of Derek Santos, Historical Architect from the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Joan Beaubian took on the task as (volunteer) Project Coordinator. Preparation included some crash courses in how to deal with contractors.



Nathan and Polly Johnson, before (inset) and after

since most of the houses are connected in some way to the anti-slavery movement

In 2007 the NBHS completed a \$225K rehabilitation of the historic building which returned it to its original glory. Background research, including documenting the story, was done by historians Kathryn Grover and Carl Cruz, and Historical Preservationist Janine DaSilva. An authentic restoration was made possible by the

The result is evident in this photo of what is now the “GEM” of Seventh Street. The NBHS is currently pursuing the possibility of having the Nathan and Polly Johnson House become officially part of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

For more information about the study and plans, contact Joan Beaubian at 508-979-8828. Fund Raising for this museum is ongoing. Tours are available by appointment.

Freedom in Oklahoma

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play. Oklahomans were surprised to learn that they had an "Underground Railroad" history too, given the freedom seekers fleeing enslavement in Indian Territory or nearby or the refuge offered by sympathetic tribes.

One aim for the exhibit was to introduce the Underground Railroad and the NTF to a general audience in Oklahoma. It is important to build a mailing list for the state, and identify themes of interest to Oklahomans. Hundreds of people signed the exhibit's guest book, and many provided lengthy comments on the exhibit. People thanked the interpreters for bringing such a wonderful exhibit to Tulsa. Platinum Entertainment had done extensive publicity to attract

chuga, an NPS interpreter, and volunteer Robin Kirk, both from Cuyahoga National Recreation Area (CUVA) near Cleveland, Ohio, to adapt CUVA's Underground Railroad educational program. Working with Network to Freedom staff, Machuga developed a script for presentations to school children and a way to funnel large numbers through the tent efficiently. Junior Ranger activity booklets and badges were very popular both with school groups, and families. Many adults picked them up to send to grandchildren.

In addition to NTF staff, Washington recruited other NPS interpreters to assist visitors. Historian Aaron Mahr, of the Trail of Tears provided a connection to this facet of shared history. Randy

Standing-water of Brown v Board of Education represented a

link to modern Civil Rights issues.

The Deborah Brown Community School was engaged as a partner to provide sale items, including the Network to Freedom lapel pin, map and guide, NPS handbook and



Tulsa County Commissioner Wilbert Collins with Network to Freedom Regional Manager Guy Washington.

a specially designed tee shirt. Proceeds supported a student trip to Ghana.

With three mutually supportive legs, represented by the artifacts, the photographs and the field trip exercises, the NTF had a platform—"The Underground Railroad Experience"—that held weight! As the location of one of the worse race riots in American History, the NTF was proud to bring the redemptive history of the Underground Railroad to Tulsa.



Enjoying a video at the Underground Railroad Experience.

visitors to the exhibit; a number of visitors commented that they came to the fair solely to see the NPS exhibit. Perhaps to the local partners' surprise, those attending the exhibit were a mixed crowd.

Washington also took into consideration the audience of school children expected on School Days at the Fair. He recruited Pam Ma-



Guy Washington greets a group of students from Deborah Brown Community School.

Good News from Historic Forks of the Roads Enslavement Market Sites, Natchez Mississippi

Ser Seshs Ab Heter-CM Boxley, Coordinator,
Friends of the Forks of the Road Society, Inc.

Historically located at Natchez's "Fork of the Road" from the early 1830s until the majority "U. S. Colored Troops" Union Army occupation in 1863, America's internal enslavement traffickers operated the second largest market in the deep southwest excepting New Orleans.

Beginning in 1995, community activists have worked to rescue, resurrect, preserve, and interpret the Forks of the Roads. Like no other deep south historic site, the Forks of the Roads juncture speaks to the business of enslavement trafficking, forced migrations of humans in captivity on overground railroad routes from the upper to the lower south, chattel slavery investment in humans, accumulation of wealth and community development off the backs of enslaved humans, and the ensuing resistance to slavery in the deep southwest. This resistance was recognized by the inclusion of Forks of the Road in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom as part of the first group of listings in spring 2001—a long overdue national and official recognition. In 2000, then First Lady Hilary Clinton's White House Millennium Council designated the site a "Natchez Trace Forks of the Roads Hub Millennium Trail". Signs are posted there to this effect.

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) nominated the Forks for National Historic Landmark status. The private land owner objected to designation, and the process was stopped. Subsequently, MDAH, with special funds appropriated by the State Legislature for preservation of historic African American sites, awarded the City of Natchez \$200,000 toward purchasing historic Forks properties from private owners.

In December of 2002, the city purchased one of the three sites, historically operated by John D. and Thomas James of Richmond, Virginia. The present educational kiosk exhibit was erected on that site at a later date.

Forks News Has Gotten Better

Ongoing successful activism, national recognition and public acquisition of one of the sites attracted the attention of Senator Thad Cochran who added funding for the National Park Service (NPS) to conduct a feasibility study of the Forks of the Roads. The City of Natchez was designated as the grantee. In summer 2006, the City



Forks of the Road Millennium Trail Marker

contracted with Mangi Corporation of Alexandria, Virginia to conduct the study, which is schedule to take a year. In a November 2006 public meeting, the city indicated it is now considering the transfer of the Forks of the Roads site to the Natchez National Historic Park (NATC). Before this can be done however, NATC must evaluate the Forks of the Roads site to see if it meets NPS boundary adjustment criteria.

The boundary study is very important to the Friends of the Forks of the Roads Society (FFRS) Inc., the formal organization representing citizen activists. FFRS is lobbying the Natchez and NPS to include Barbara Tagger (Southeast program manager for NTF) and Tom Rosenblum as advisors

shaping recommendations on the study. Tom Rosenblum, formerly of Natchez National Historic Park, has conducted ground breaking research on the Forks markets and its dealers and traffickers. Barbara Tagger has the exact vision and understanding of what the Forks of the Roads feasibility study should consider relative to the Forks of the Roads, its connection to the Underground Railroad, and the goals and objectives of the FFRS. For us, the Forks feasibility study is paramount and cannot suffer from a lack of expertise.

There are two other historic enslavement market sites at the Forks. The R. H. Elam site is owned by a State mental health agency. However, the Franklin and Armfield market site remains in private ownership though the owner is willing to sell. This site is important because Franklin and Armfield's records are well researched and available. Isaac Franklin's Fairvue plantation estate and house in Gallatin Tennessee is well preserved. Angola Prison in Louisiana was built on his five plantations in West Feliciana Parish. His headquarters building at 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia (listed in the NTF as an escape site) is now owned by the Urban League of Northern Virginia and serves as their headquarters. What a grand opportunity we have at the Forks of the Roads to finally show and tell the story of America's domestic long distance enslavement trafficking so geographically and completely!

For further information, see www.forksoftheroads.net.

Candidates for Thirteenth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the twelfth round of applications. On Wednesday, March 28, 2007 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, at the NPS office in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the regional manager committee will review and vote on the applications listed below. The public is invited to attend. For further information or to comment on the applications, please contact Diane Miller, National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, or by phone at 402-661-1588 or diane_miller@nps.gov.

District of Columbia

- African American Civil War Memorial [site]
- Slavery and the Underground Railroad with a Focus on the Nation's Capital [program]

Indiana

- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church [site]
- John Freeman Landscape [His historical property] [site]
- Indiana Supreme Court-Courts in the Classroom [program]

Kentucky

- The Long Walk Home: From Slavery to Freedom [Program]

Maine

- Abyssinian Meeting House [site]

Maryland

- The Adventures of Harriet Tubman [program]
- Emmarts United Methodist Church [site]
- Experience Harriet Tubman by Sea#1 [program]
- Experience Harriet Tubman by Sea#2 [program]
- Experience Harriet Tubman by Land [program]

Massachusetts

- Boston African American National Historic Site [facility]

New Hampshire

- Cartland House [site]

New York

- Second Street Cemetery [site]

North Carolina

- Henry Sr. and Dorothy Copeland Burial Sites (revision) [site]

North Carolina (continued)

- Somerset Place State Historic Site [site]

Ohio

- The King Farm [site]

Pennsylvania

- Blairsville Passport [program]
- Bradford County Historical Society [facility]
- Cliveden [site]
- Erie County Historical Society [program]
- Heinz History Center [facility]
- Kaufman's Station [site]
- The Place I Call Home [program]
- SE Pennsylvania Underground Railroad Tour [program]

Virginia

- The Two Harriets [program]

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

The fall 2006 public review meeting for Network to Freedom applications was held in Auburn, New York at the Harriet Tubman Home. The regional manager committee accepted the following 25 listings into the Network, bringing the total to 285.

Georgia

- Mattie, Johnny, and Smooth White Stones, Part II [program]

Illinois

- Galesburg Colony UGRR Freedom Station at Knox College [program]
- Underground Railroad in Illinois [program]

Indiana

- Seymour Train Station [site]
- William and Margaret Hicklin House [site]

Maryland

- Bancker-Douglass Museum [program]
- Maryland State House [site]
- Reginald Lewis Museum [program]
- Riley Farm [site]
- Thornton Poole House [site]

Massachusetts

- Longfellow NHS [facility]
- Mount Auburn Cemetery [site]

New York

- 1816 Farmington Quaker Meeting-house [site]
- Hunt House [site]
- Joshua W. and Samantha Wright House [site]
- North Street Meeting House [site]
- Slocum and Hannah Howland House [site]

- Thomas Elliot and Ann Marie Stewart Elliot House [site]

Pennsylvania

- Belmont Mansion [site]
- Burial Ground at Huntington Friends Meeting [site]
- Burial Ground at Menallen Friends Meeting [site]
- Burial Ground at Yellow Ground [site]
- Cumberland County Historical Society [facility]
- Living The Experience [program]

Virginia

- Leesylvania State Park [site]

William C. Goodridge Freedom House

Nduku Ndumbu, Community Development Manager, Crispus Attucks Association

The William C. Goodridge House, located on 123 East Philadelphia Street, York, Pennsylvania is one of the few authenticated African-American-owned Underground Railroad stations still standing today. The House has been designated as a site in the Network to Freedom. The Crispus Attucks Association of York, Pennsylvania is undertaking the renovation of the Goodridge House and will be opening it to the public as The William C. Goodridge Freedom House and Underground Railroad Museum in 2007.



William C. Goodridge Freedom House

William C. Goodridge was a successful black entrepreneur who lived in York in the early to mid-1800s. His greatest legacy is his contribution to the Underground Railroad. He used his home and other properties to hide slaves and then smuggle them to free-

dom by transporting them on the Goodridge Reliance Line, a railcar service he owned and operated.

Goodridge's actions as a station master on the Underground Railroad were so significant that his home was often

under surveillance by slave-catchers. Two famous, or perhaps infamous, fugitives linked to Goodridge's Underground Railroad activities are William Parker, who participated in the Christiana riots in 1851, and Osborne Perry Anderson, a survivor of John Brown's Harper's Ferry raid in West Virginia in 1859.

The William C. Goodridge Freedom House and Underground Railroad Museum will highlight how the Goodridge family endangered their lives and incredible fortune to assist runaway slaves in their quest for freedom.

For more information please contact Nduku Ndumbu at 717-848-3610 or send an email to ndumbu@crispusattucks.org

The Underground Railroad Center at Historic Zercher's Hotel

Randolph J. Harris, Preservation Consultant

On September 11, 2006, the Christiana Underground Railroad Center at Historic Zercher's Hotel opened to the public. The date holds deep national historic significance of tumultuous events in both the mid-19th century and at the turn of the 21st.

Located at 11 Green Street, Christiana, Lancaster County, PA, the new center is located in a first floor office of a National Register-eligible building that once served at various times as a train station, post office, hotel, and town jail. The building is now privately owned and continues to serve as the offices of the Charles Bond Company, a maker of industrial gears and gear boxes at the site since



Christiana in 1846, with Zercher Hotel building

1915. The Visitor Center has been designed to give travelers an orientation to the significance of the Christiana Resistance, originally known as The Christiana Riot, which occurred near the Borough of Christiana 155 years ago to the day of the opening, on September 11, 1851.

On that day, a Maryland slave owner,

accompanied by a US Marshall, his deputies and a few other supporters came to the Pownall Family farm near Christiana and demanded the return of men who escaped bondage on his farm. The slave owner, Edward Gorsuch, was mortally wounded in the fight with a local Black militia; his body was taken to Zercher's Hotel where it was examined as part of the official inquest. These events were widely reported and are believed to have provided a significant push toward the US Civil War some 10 years later.

The visitor center is Lancaster County's first, free, publicly accessible facility that describes this area's role in the Underground Railroad and

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Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark

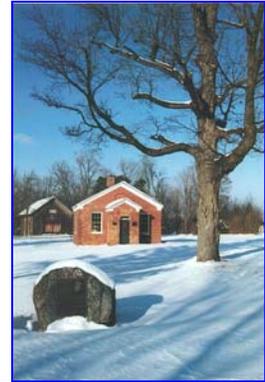
Dot Willsey, Co-Chair, Stewards for Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark

In 2007 the Smithfield Community Association (SCA) will accomplish its goal of uniting three parcels of land that compose the Gerrit Smith Estate (GSE) as described in the National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation in 2001. Thirty structures were on the estate at the time of the Underground Railroad and abolition activities of wealthy landowner Gerrit Smith. All but four of those buildings, including the Smith mansion, are now gone. Joining the newly purchased property (which has three buildings) with a three-acre parcel and with two acres on which the 1804 Gerrit Smith Land Office is situated will provide a contiguous public land to develop as an interpretive site for Gerrit Smith, free-

dom seekers in Peterboro, and the Underground Railroad in Central New York. The Madison County Board of Supervisors, an Environmental Protection Fund grant, fundraising activities, and contributions have assisted the SCA with the acquisition. Stabilization and interpretation efforts are supported, in part, by Heritage NY, the New York Statewide Underground Railroad project.

An orientation video on the Gerrit Smith Estate is supported by an NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant. It was premiered at commemoration ceremonies for the first five inductees to the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum: Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Lucretia Coffin Mott, Gerrit Smith, and Harriet Tubman.

On Saturday, March 3, 2007, stewards for the Gerrit Smith Estate NHL will commence the 2007 season with information and training sessions followed by a 210th birthday celebration for Smith.



Land Office and boulder on Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark in winter. Photo by Steve Joeckel, President Smithfield Community Association

Zercher's Hotel

(Continued from page 6)

anti-slavery activities. Exhibits explain the role of Zercher's Hotel in the Resistance at Christiana and the strident anti-slavery sentiments held by the larger community. These sentiments created the backdrop for the fatal confrontation. For the first time in one exhibit, the homes and farms of 24 Underground Railroad Stationmasters, located in seven municipalities in two counties, are presented. Many of these stationmasters' homes still exist and can be seen from public roads, but none is open to visitors. Several other historic sites associated with the anti-slavery movement in Lancaster and Chester counties also are featured. Through wall-mounted historical and contemporary photographs, maps, text panels and small artifacts, the Center has been designed to interpret the Resistance at Christiana and the subsequent criminal proceedings as having effectively undercut efforts to enforce the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law and deeply polarized the nation.



Visitor Center opening, fall 2006

The Center is open for weekday visitation from 9 AM until 4 PM and is wheelchair accessible. There is no entry fee but donations are accepted. Proceeds are used to maintain the Visitor Center.

The Christiana Underground Railroad Center is a joint project of the Charles Bond Company, owners of the site, and the Christiana Historical Society. Project funding of just over \$20,000 came from a Network to Freedom grant (Zercher's

was listed in the Network in 2003) and the Community Revitalization Program of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development.

For more information, please visit www.zerchershotel.com or call 1-610-593-5340.



Crowd at Visitor Center opening, fall 2006. Photos courtesy of Randolph Harris

Historian Judy Wellman Honored by Seneca County

Walter Gable, Seneca County Historian

For all of her many contributions to uncovering the history of Seneca County, Dr. Judith Wellman was given the inaugural awarding of the Seneca County Historian's Award on November 28, 2006. Dr. Wellman has devoted much of her professional career to the advancement of the history of Upstate New York. She is the author of the book *The Road to Seneca Falls* which can be recognized as the definitive historical study of the various developments leading up to the holding of the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY, on July 19-20, 1848. She has continued to consult and do research for the Women's Rights National Historical Park, adding much to our knowledge of the people and places associated with this first women's rights convention. Currently, she has been overseeing a project called "The Road from Seneca Falls," funded by the U.S. Office of



Award presented to Judy Wellman, by then Seneca County Board of Supervisors Chair Robert Shipley, with county manager Sharon Secor on the left, and Seneca County historian Walt Gable on the far right.

Education, to develop a website where teachers, students and the general public can access quality information, including documents and lesson plans, on all aspects of the women's rights movement and the entire span of women's history in the United States.

Most recently she was the lead consultant for a Preserve New York-funded grant "the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism

and African American Life in Seneca County, New York, 1820-1880." This study resulted in the identification of several sites for the Network to Freedom.

The county board of supervisors resolution honoring Dr. Wellman with the award stated:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, with great gratitude for her tremendous contributions to the advancement of Seneca County history, the Board of Supervisors hereby endorses the Seneca County Historian's Office granting the "Seneca County Historian's Award" to Dr. Judith Wellman for the advancement of Seneca County History upon completion of her overseeing of the research project "The Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Seneca County."

Lowe's Hosts Dedication of Significant Underground Railroad Site

Oswego County Public Information Office

The Clarke family cemetery, a historic landmark that represents abolition, freedom, and courage, was dedicated to its new location on the east side of the Lowe's Home Improvement Center in September. For nearly two years, Turner and many others worked together to resolve an issue that potentially could have blocked several million dollars in new investment and hundreds of jobs associated with it. Lowe's Home Improvement Center stands on what was once the Clarke family farm, an important Underground Railroad stop that harbored more than 125 freedom seekers.

Dr. Judith Wellman noted "The cemetery is located on the property that once belonged to Sidney and Olive Jackson Clarke." Sidney, born in 1803, and his older brother, Edwin W. Clarke, born in 1801, were key figures in the network of Underground Railroad supporters in the city of Oswego.

Dr. Wellman was joined at the site by representatives of the various parties who



Local, state, and federal officials at Clarke family cemetery dedication at Lowe's

all contributed to the effort of preserving and relocating the Clarke cemetery. Among those present were members of the Oswego County Freedom Trail Commission, Senator Wright, the Heritage Foundation of Oswego, Oswego County Department of Community Development, Tourism and Planning, the Widewaters Group and Lowe's. Other support for the project came from the Preservation League of New York State, Heritage New York Underground Railroad Trail, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and the Network to Freedom.

The entire cemetery, exactly as it stood on its original location, was moved stone by stone to its current site on the eastern end of the Lowe's parking lot. In early 2004, a licensed funeral director and a local minister supervised the moving of the cemetery and the re-interment of the remains. In a demonstration of their respect, construction workers involved with the project dressed in business suits and acted as pallbearers as they moved the family 800 feet to their new and final resting place.

State Senator James Wright, who played a key role in the project, spoke at the dedication ceremony. "The Underground Railroad was very active in Oswego County ... A formal dedication was indeed appropriate for such an important preservation project."

"The store employees take great pride in maintaining the cemetery grounds and the company is pleased to be a partner in the effort," said Mark Hofmeier, manager of the Oswego Lowe's store. This was evident at the ceremony, as the site featured a well-manicured lawn area adorned with several varieties of flowers and shrubs.

Network to Freedom Member Films UGRR Film Sequel in Canada

Cassandra Hollis

In late Fall 2006, award-winning filmmaker Cassandra Hollis and her crew traveled to Buxton and Chatham, Ontario, Canada to film the third installment of a short film series about an enslaved couple who attempt to escape together so that they can marry officially. "Mattie, Johnny and Smooth White Stones: Parts I & II" were both selected for inclusion in the Network to Freedom Program in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Due to an overwhelming response to both films, Cassandra Hollis decided to continue the series.

some of the original African Canadian settlers of the Elgin Settlement, which was later named Buxton. Several members of the Shadd family and other families participated as extras and some had speaking roles. Hollis said a highlight was filming scenes in a school and church built during the late 1800's that is adjacent to the Buxton Museum.



Director, Cassandra Hollis explaining scene to actor Tim Mckeon (right) as John Basden (center), of TJ Stables listens on. Basden assisted with location scouting in Chatham, Ontario



Actors portraying fur traders preparing canoe for scene

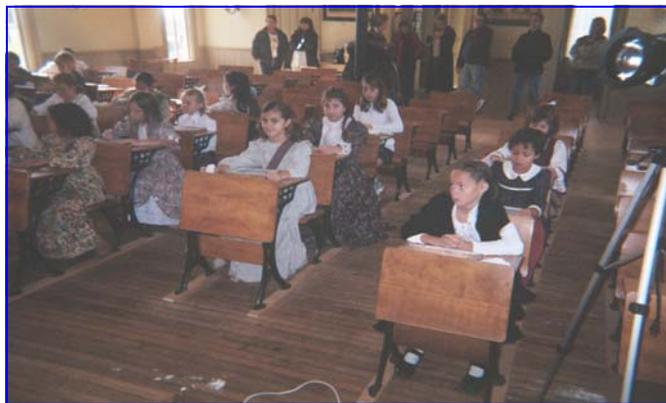
The Elgin Settlement, now known as Buxton, is one of the few remaining Black Canadian settlements still in existence. It was wonderful for the community to come out and represent their ancestors in the film. I especially enjoyed a classroom scene that we shot with local school children. To be in the actual building where children learned over two centuries ago was inspiring.

For more information about the film series or to invite Cassandra Hollis to screen the film series, contact: info@holyhillproductions.com or visit: www.holyhillproductions.com.

Produced by Holy Hill Productions, the three-part series portrays the theme of freedom seekers escaping despite insurmountable odds. The first two films featured the journey from Georgia to Ohio. "Mattie, Johnny and Smooth White Stones: Part III," continues the daring journey from Ohio to Canada, circa 1857.

Filming took place in various locations in Buxton and Chatham, Ontario and incorporates some of the actual local history. Rev. William King, a Presbyterian minister and abolitionist who established the Elgin Settlement in 1849, is featured in the film. Also featured in the film are descendants of

"Mattie, Johnny and Smooth White Stones: Parts III" is currently in post-production in Atlanta, Georgia. When it is completed, the Canadian Consulate of Atlanta will host a screening of the film. It will also premiere in Canada sometime in 2007.



Local school children in Canadian classroom scene, Buxton, On-

“The Promise of Liberty” and African American History

\$400 REWARD

RANAWAY from subscriber, living near Berlin, Frederick county, Maryland, on Saturday night, the 19th inst.,

2 Negro Men,

named WARREN and HENRY. Warren is about 25 years of age, 4 feet 7 or 8 inches high, stout built, black complexion, one of his fingers crooked from front an injury received in early life ready spoken when addressed. Had on a blue sack coat; his other dress not recollected.

Henry is about 23 years of age, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, yellow complexion, has a down look when spoken to, rather spare figure, no particular marks recollected.

I will give the above reward for said negroes, or two hundred for either of them if caught and secured so that I get them again.

JOSEPH WALTMAN

Frederick Examiner, May 30, 1855

Teresa S. Moyer, Graduate Student, University of Maryland, Project Leader, “Promise of Liberty”

Who were Warren and Henry, described in a runaway ad in the *Frederick Examiner* (May 30, 1855)? How and why did they escape from Joseph Waltman? Did this ad lead to their recapture?

Through “The Promise of Liberty Project,” funded by a Save Our History (SOH) grant from the History Channel, eighth graders at Middletown Middle School (Frederick County, MD) spent Spring 2006 semester searching for people like Warren and Henry, trying to resurrect a lost history. Their challenge was to examine African American history in the region during the Civil War era (1855-1870), and to locate associated sites. The SOH project was a cooperative effort between Middletown Middle School, the Catocin Center for Regional Studies (Frederick Community College), the National Park Service, and the Maryland Room (Frederick County Public Library).

African Americans’ history in mid-Maryland has been neglected. Enslavement and resistance, recruitment of United States Colored Troops, African American communities and Freedmen’s Bureau schools were part

of the complex mosaic of the Civil War era. By exposing students to untold stories and the research process, the SOH project encouraged a new generation to care about the past and safeguard its future.

The students looked at published accounts of advertisements in mid-Maryland newspapers and runaways’ accounts to collect bondsmens’ and slaveholders’ names, the date of escape, and the name of the town in 1860 census records and slaveholders’ records. Students located slaveholders’ residences using an online map on the Maryland State Archives’ website, “Beneath the Underground: The Flight to Freedom.” Students then mapped sites on an 1858 map of Frederick County, creating a visual index. Their hard work provides local historians with a significant body of new, mapped data.

In students’ words, “The locations and historical artifacts that are left are the only mementos of this time period,” and “These sites are special because they represent our nation’s past mistakes such as racial discrimination and segregation.”



Students from Allison Weese’s Renzulli enrichment program at Middletown Middle School

To impress students with the need for historic preservation, students helped nominate the Thornton Poole House in Linganore, MD, to the Network to Freedom. The Thornton Poole House is significant for the escape of twelve members of the enslaved Aldridge family in the 1850s. William Still recorded their story in 1857. Their escapes reflect fear of sale away from family and loved ones.

For more information, contact the Catocin Center for Regional Studies (301-624-2773). The students’ historic site map and guide will soon appear on <http://catocincenter.frederick.edu/>

FRIENDS OF THE NETWORK TO FREEDOM



THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

SAVE THE DATES
SEPT. 10 - SEPT. 15

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD
The 1st National Underground Railroad Summit

In conjunction with the **National Park Service Network to Freedom Program**, for the first time each nationally recognized Underground Railroad site and program will be represented in **one place** to celebrate the history and research associated with the story of the Underground Railroad. This historical five-day conference will feature pre-conference events, exhibits, speakers, workshops, performances, and more.

The event will be hosted on the campus of
Georgetown College
Georgetown, KY.

To receive a Summit registration packet and more information, please visit www.ugrri.org

We look forward to seeing you.

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 Program Managers**

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

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

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

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

Sheri Jackson, **Northeast**, sheri_jackson@nps.gov

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

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

Our Web Site has Changed!

Recent changes (including looks) in the Network to Freedom web site make it necessary to reset browser bookmarks that may be currently in place. Please delete your old bookmarks, then enter the following web address:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr/>

Hit enter and bookmark or save the new page.

Happy browsing!

**Contribute to the
Newsletter**

Please forward notices, 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.

Comments on the newsletter are also welcome. Deadlines are January 15 and July 15.