



Network to Freedom



Mayhew Cabin Celebrates Juneteenth Amid an Uncertain Future

*By Bill Hayes, Assistant Director,
Mayhew Cabin*

The Mayhew Cabin and Historic Village is a non profit foundation dedicated to educating individuals about the Mayhew Cabin and its relationship to the Underground Railroad. It is the only site in Nebraska that is recognized as part of the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom. The Mayhew Cabin held a Juneteenth Celebration on June 16th to honor the courage and perseverance of those who were enslaved, those who escaped slavery, and those who assisted them. In addition, they wanted to recognize an important holiday in America. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration that marks the end of slavery in America and promotes freedom, justice, equality, and tolerance for all people.

The event included many different programs for people of all ages. The day started at 11 a.m. with Underground Railroad activities. These included showing how escaped slaves packed personal possessions, disguised themselves, and what quilt signals to look for. The main part of the event took place at 1:30 p.m. with a Nebraska

Humanities Council program. Dr. Spencer Davis and Mrs. Davis portrayed Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth in Understanding Emancipation and discussed the promises and concerns of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Calvin Phillips then performed African-American spirituals for our music program in front of the organization’s Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal church. The crowd was treated to such songs as “Amazing Grace.” Finally the end of the event witnessed Dr. Sara Crook discuss the Jim Lane Trail in Nebraska, Bill Hayes reading the Governor’s Proclamation on Juneteenth, and National Park Service national program manager Diane Miller explaining the site’s importance. The crowd also en-



Dr. Spencer Davis portraying Abraham Lincoln at Juneteenth celebration. Photo courtesy Grace Johnson, Nebraska City News-Press

joyed lemonade, cookies, tea, and cake throughout the day.

Hayes, the event coordinator and Assistant Director, felt that it was a successful event with over 75 people attending. The crowd included many adults and several children who participated in the various activities. Many had positive comments about the Nebraska Humanities Council program and thoroughly enjoyed Phillips’ music. The Mayhew Cabin had free admission for its Juneteenth cele-

(Continued on page 3)

Bicycling the Underground Railroad

Adventure Cycling Association (ACA), founded in 1973, is America's premier nonprofit organization dedicated to bicycle travel, with over 42,000 members nationwide.

Our mission is to inspire people of all ages to travel by bicycle. We help cyclists explore the landscapes and history of America for fitness, fun, and self-discovery.
—Adventure Cycling Association

In partnership with the Center for Minority Health (CMH) at the University of Pittsburgh, ACA developed a bicycle route to honor the Underground Railroad. The goal of the project was to provide a bicycle route that celebrates the bravery of those who chose to flee slavery and the scores of Americans that offered aid on their route to freedom.

With America facing a national health crisis, ACA and CMH saw a natural alliance born from common goals. To further the goal of encouraging people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds to explore the landscapes and history of American by bicycle, ACA and CMH began a partnership in 2004. The ACA also received generous financial support from its mem-

bers, REI, and Bikes Belong for route development, mapping, and promotion, as well as educational outreach.

"Today we must promote physical activity within the cultural context of African American history, including the struggle to freedom from bondage," says CMH director Dr. Stephen Thomas. "We are realizing the contributions we can make together toward the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities by creating innovative healthy lifestyle options that are scientifically sound and culturally relevant."

The 2,058 mile Underground Railroad route begins in Mobile, Alabama—a busy slave trade port before the Civil War—and continues north following rivers through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. After crossing the Ohio River, the route veers toward Lake Erie, and enters Canada at the Peace Bridge near Buffalo, New York. The route then follows the shores of Lake Ontario and ends at Owen Sound, a town founded by freedom seekers in 1857. Five maps covering different sections of the route are now available.

"We've all heard the story of slaves who escaped to freedom," says Dennis Coello, a veteran photographer and writer who recently rode and photographed the route for Adventure Cycling, "but here's a chance to *feel* that story — and to experience a continent along the way."

To mark the completion of the route, Adventure Cycling offered two organized cycling tours in spring and summer of 2007. The first, an "unsupported" ride, covered the entire route over 48 days. Fourteen riders carried all of their



The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route follows the trek to freedom from Mobile, Alabama, to Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada and took three years to research and map. Map by Adventure Cycling Association.



Enjoying the sights and sounds of Niagara Falls. Photo by Adventure Cycling Association/Dennis Coello.

gear and camping equipment from Alabama to Owen Sound, Ontario. At the end of July about 90 riders took off from Buffalo, New York, to cover the last 237 mile leg of the route to freedom at Owen Sound, in 7 days. Along the way both groups met local historians, city officials, bicycle club representatives, and site managers.

Several special occasions marked the second tour. Leaving Buffalo, a short ceremony was held on the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge where local historian Kevin Cottrell and-

(Continued on page 3)

Nebraska Underground Railroad Site Threatened

(Continued from page 1)

bration and saw a positive turn out at all the programs. All the hard work by the Mayhew Cabin staff and volunteers paid off with smiling faces of the visitors.

Mayhew Cabin's Uncertain Future

The Cabin hosted such an event despite the difficulties facing it. The Mayhew Cabin & Historic Village's future is very uncertain. The local non-profit foundation does not have the resources to maintain the site and still has an outstanding loan that was taken out to restore and maintain the cabin. The Foundation does not own the entrance building of the site. They have been fortunate enough to oc-

cupy part of the entrance building but now the building will be sold at public auction before the end of the season. This means that the site would lose its museum, restrooms, office, and gift shop. The Cabin is currently trying to reorganize its mission to educate the public on the Jim Lane Trail and Underground Railroad in Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas.



Children participate in special activities. Photo courtesy Grace Johnson, Nebraska City News-Press

(Continued from page 2)

City Administrator Bill Bradberry presented a proclamation and key to the city. The Whirlpool Bridge was previously known as the Sus-

val. The gala weekend of festivities included a parade, live music, speakers, arts and crafts, food vendors, story telling, gospel singing, and more.



Riders meet with City Administrator Bradberry on the Whirlpool Bridge. Photo courtesy of Lewiston Council on the Arts.

pension Bridge and is believed to have been used by Harriet Tubman on her trips into Canada. The second tour group was also welcomed as featured guests at Owen Sound's 145th Emancipation Festi-

So you talk about hardships. Imagine walking the thousands of miles that constitutes the UGRR? Imagine the people along the route that created safe houses. So my point here is that there is no amount of discomfort that you will experience on a bicycle that is greater than the discomfort, the fear and the danger of actually being caught and killed and lynched that the slaves experienced in actually walking the UGRR. And it's that history that we must lift up, embrace across race. It is a history of freedom and something that we can all celebrate

—Dr. Stephen Thomas, Director, Center for Minority Health



Wildlife is abundant along the Underground Railroad Route—even in urban areas like Buffalo, New York. Photo by Adventure Cycling Association/Dennis Coello.

NPS Unveils Markers for Elizabeth City, North Carolina Sites

By Elizabeth Evans, Public Relations Consultant

Two centuries ago, African American freedom seekers plied the Pasquotank River to escape slavery, making their way through the Great Dismal Swamp's dense wetlands.

At a river front ceremony held in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on June 11, 2007, the National Park Service (NPS) unveiled markers to help visitors understand this chapter of American history and the waterway's significance as a path to freedom. The markers recognize the Pasquotank River and the Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) Great Dismal Swamp Boardwalk Project as an official part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

"Waterways and natural land features acted as both 'abolitionist' and 'conductor' for enslaved Africans," said Barbara Tagger, Southeast Region Program Manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and a NPS historian. "It was like a map. If they knew how the waterways progressed, they would follow them north, and in some cases south, to freedom."

Tagger, along with Wanda McLean who researched and prepared the nominations for both the Pasquotank River and Great Dismal Swamp, helped Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County and Camden County officials dedicate the markers. According to Tagger, the Pasquotank River is the first river in the United States to be recognized in the NPS Network to Freedom. "In this particular part of North Carolina, the Pasquotank River was integral to the Underground Railroad because of the number of boats and ships that came to the area and made their way north," said Tagger.

Part of the Intercoastals Waterway, the Pasquotank River was once an important transportation link between the Albemarle Sound and the Chesapeake Bay. During the 1800s, the river and Elizabeth City bustled with activity as ships, steamers and boats disembarked from the waterfront to transport goods and people throughout the South. Some freedom seekers stowed away on the vessels. Others hired by boat owners and gained transportation to points north where they sought independence as workmen.



NTF Program Manager Barbara Tagger, Russell Haddad, Director, Elizabeth City Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and application preparer Wanda McLean of Elizabeth City State University unveil interpretive markers.

Upon reaching Elizabeth City, a number of freedom seekers sought refuge in the Great Dismal Swamp, an enormous track of forested wetlands that straddles the North Carolina/Virginia state line. Many used the swamp as a stopping place before continuing on their journey. Some even made a home in the wilderness living off the land and bartering with local farmers for food and supplies. Hired slave labor dug the Dismal Swamp Canal, the oldest manmade waterway in the country, in 1793.

The Pasquotank River, which forms the Elizabeth City waterfront, was

given designation on the Network to Freedom in 2004. The ECSU Great Dismal Swamp Boardwalk Project received its designation in 2003. The half-mile long boardwalk and observation tower provides access to 639 miles of wetlands wilderness area for use by ECSU in research and educational activities. A third Elizabeth City area site, the Dismal Swamp State Park was designated in 2003; a marker is planned for this site as well.

As result of the NPS Network to Freedom designations, the Elizabeth City Area Convention & Visitors Bureau plans to promote the sites through the development of a new self-guided "Freedom Seekers" tour itinerary that originates in Elizabeth City and guides visitors to neighboring Network to Freedom sites in Edenton, Manteo, Cresswell, Rich Square, and Wilmington, North Carolina.

North Carolina Network to Freedom Designations

- Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony—Manteo/Dare County—designated 2002
- Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony Memorial Garden—Manteo/Dare County—designated 2003
- Great Dismal Swamp (North Carolina/Virginia)—designated 2003
- Pasquotank River—Pasquotank and Camden Counties—designated 2004
- Colonial Park—Edenton—designated 2004
- Orange Street Dock on Cape Fear—Wilmington—designated 2005
- Somerset Place State Historic Site—Cresswell—designated 2007
- Henry Sr. and Dorothy Copleand Burial Sites—Rich Square—designated 2007

Candidates for Fourteenth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the fourteenth round of applications. On Wednesday, September 12, 2007, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Thomas and King Conference Center at Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, the regional program 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.

Delaware

- Appoquinimink Friends Meeting [site]
- Corbit-Sharp House [site]
- Delaware Public Archives [facility]

Georgia

- “Mattie, Johnny, and Smooth White Stones, Part III” [program]

Kansas

- Owens House [site]
- Quindaro Underground Railroad Museum [facility]
- Ritchie House [site]

Kentucky

- Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park [site]

Maine

- Abyssinian Meeting House [site]

Maryland

- Grantham & Forrest Farm [site]

Michigan

- Adam Crosswhite Marker [site]
- Commemorative Drinking Fountain of Laura Smith Haviland [site]
- Dr. Nathan M. Thomas Home [site]
- First Congregational Church of Detroit [site]
- George deBaptiste Homesite [site]
- Second Baptist Church [site]
- Stephen Bogue Commemorative Marker [site]
- William Lambert Homesite Marker [site]

New Jersey

- Abigail & Elizabeth Goodwin Home [site]

New York

- Awaakaba’s Riverstroll [program]
- Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims [site]
- Sandy Ground Historical Society [program]
- Second Street Cemetery [site]

- Solomon Northup Day [program]
- Wesleyan Methodist Church [site]

Ohio

- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center [facility]

Pennsylvania

- Cumberland County Courthouse [site]
- Journey to Freedom [program]
- Kaufman’s Station at Boiling Springs [site]
- Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom, Lancaster County [program]
- National Archives and Records Administration [facility]
- Philadelphia Doll Museum’s From Slavery to Freedom [program]
- Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom, Philadelphia [program]

Virginia

- Spotsylvania County Courthouse and Jail [site]

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

The spring 2007 public review meeting for Network to Freedom applications was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The regional program manager committee accepted the following 15 listings into the Network, bringing the total to 300.

District of Columbia

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

Indiana

- Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church [site]
- Indiana Supreme Court—Courts in the Classroom [program]

Kentucky

- Long Walk: From Slavery to Freedom [program]

Maryland

- Adventures of Harriet Tubman & UGRR in Dorchester County [program]
- Experience Harriet Tubman & the UGRR by Sea 1 [program]
- Experience Harriet Tubman & the UGRR by Sea 2 [program]
- Experience Harriet Tubman & the UGRR by Land [program]

New Hampshire

- Cartland House [site]

North Carolina

- Burial Sites of Henry Sr., and Dorothy Copeland [site]
- Somerset Place [site]

Pennsylvania

- Blairsville Passport to Freedom UGRR Experience [program]
- Heinz History Center [facility]
- Place I Call Home Tour [program]

The Fort Mose Story

By Derek Boyd Hankerson and James Bullock—Fort Mose Ambassadors

The Spanish culture had a unique way of looking at slavery, unlike their neighbors in the British Colony of Georgia and South Carolina. This was the result of the influence of the Moors who ruled Spain for 700 years.

Africans had traveled to St. Augustine as early as the 1500 with Ponce de Leon, as both free and enslaved. In 1693 King Charles II issued an edict which granted freedom to all escaped African runaways to include men, women, and children if they made it to Florida from the plantations of British colonies, embraced Catholicism, and pledged to serve the Spanish Crown. Consequently, runaway black slaves made the trek from the British colonies of Georgia and South Carolina assisted by Seminole Indians to Spanish Florida.

As a result of the growing military tension between Spain and England, the Spanish government in 1738 (Governor Manuel de Montiano) offered blacks a plot of land about two-miles north of St. Augustine where they could build their own settlement and fort. The fort would be called Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose or Fort Mose, and is the first free black town within the present-day borders of the United States. This frontier community of homesteaders incorporated fugitives, slaves, and native Indians from nearby villages, welcoming them into a complex family network of 38 men, and an estimated 100 people. The fort was described as earthen-walled, with Indian-type thatched huts. It sat on Mose Creek, a tributary of the Tolomato River which flows south into Matanzas Bay. The trails from St. Augustine heading north and west passed near the fort. With these waterways and trails so near, this outpost was of strategic importance to the

Spanish military. In exchange for the land, the black militia would help protect the northern approaches to St. Augustine.



Fort Mose Visitor's Center

Africans soon adopted Spanish names and culture with an African flavor. Settlers of Fort Mose maintained important social links to St. Augustine, resulting in marriages, baptisms, and fraternal relations between the two communities.

Fort Mose's militia provided Spain's northernmost defense in North America, and the captain of the militia, Francisco Menendez, was recognized by Florida's Spanish governor as "chief" of the community. In 1740, during his attack against St. Augustine, British General James Oglethorpe captured Fort Mose, and the inhabitants fled to the Castillo de San Marco. A few weeks later, Menendez led his forces in a surprise attack and a valiant retaking of the fort. However, the battle destroyed the fort, and it would not be rebuilt until 1752.

When Florida was ceded to Britain under the 1763 Treaty of Paris, the free blacks of Mose, along with some of the Spanish population of Florida and their Indian allies, left for Cuba, where they were resettled by the Spanish government. At least 251 British slaves joined the Spanish under the sanctuary policy, and many others fled to the flourishing villages of the Seminoles in North Florida.

Abandoned and forgotten, Fort Mose slowly fell into ruin, and then disappeared. When Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821 and then a southern state in 1845, there was little interest in researching black history. Evidence of the first free black settlement remained buried under the marsh until the middle of the twentieth century when researchers began uncovering the story of Fort Mose and the Africans' contributions to St. Augustine. Eventually, an archaeological dig in 1986 uncovered the site of the fort as well as fragments of items used in the inhabitants' daily lives such as pottery and religious artifacts.

Today, Ambassadors James Bullock and Derek Hankerson are sharing the Fort Mose story via readings of James Bullock's play *Freedom Road*. Since January 2007 a diverse cast has been touring St. John's County sharing the incredible story *Freedom Road*. The play will be performed later this year under the direction of Broadway actor and Humanities Chair, Edward Waters College, Noble Lee Lester.

Freedom Road is a story of one year (1739) in the life of a Spanish colony, St. Augustine. It is a tale of unsung heroes and underdogs, warriors, and the women they love, protect, and sometimes leave behind. People are caught up in events larger than themselves. *Freedom Road* is a story of runaways who were a beacon of hope. It is about the sanctuary that was found in Florida in a place called Fort Mose. Its significance is in the role and contributions that non-whites had in controlling their destinies and building and defending community. This is not a story about slavery or black history, but one to shed some light on the effects of slavery in the New World and the underrepresentation of minorities in the telling of U.S. history.

Slavery, Abolition, and Freedom in the HSP Collections

By Lee Arnold, Director of the Library and Collections

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) is delighted to report on the success of the *Contextualizing the Underground Railroad: Slavery, Abolition, and Freedom in the HSP Collections* project, which concluded in September 2006. Project Cataloger Mihyun Kim entered 1,230 records (204 original and 1,026 edited), of mainly pamphlets, into our online catalogue (and also to the international library database OCLC). This far exceeded our original estimate of 800 items.

Some of the rare pamphlets include:

Select Religious Pieces: Published for the Benefit of the Africans and Their Descendants; Particularly Those Who Are Turning Their Faces Zion-ward by Joseph Clark (Philadelphia: Printed by J. Ormrod, 1800)

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled: The Memorial and Address of the People Called Quakers from Their Yearly Meeting Held in Philadelphia, by Adjournments from

the 25th of the 9th Month, to the 29th of the Same, Inclusive, 1797. [Philadelphia: s.n., 1797]

Benezet, Anthony. *A Short Account of the People Called Quakers: Their Rise, Religious Principles and Settlement in America, Mostly Collected by Different Authors, for the Information of All Serious Inquirers, Particularly Foreigners.* Philadelphia: Printed by Joseph Cruickshank, 1780

The Debate on a Motion for the Abolition of the Slave-trade in the House of Commons: on Monday and Tuesday, April 18 and 19, 1791, Reported in Detail. London: Printed by and for W. Woodfall and sold at the Printing-Office of the Diary ..., 1791

Vaux, Roberts. *Memoirs of the Lives of Benjamin Lay and Ralph Sandiford: Two of the Earliest Public Advocates for the Emancipation of the Enslaved Africans.* Philadelphia: Solomon W. Conrad, 1815

But besides the actual cataloging of the records, Ms. Kim also rehoused all of the items. She made acid-free sleeves for frail items, placing them in acid-free envelopes and then into



Rare documents at Historical Society of Philadelphia

acid-free boxes. Ms. Kim also, as outlined in the grant proposal, rehoused the entire archival collection (some 12 linear feet) of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society (PAS) Papers. Each bound volume of the PAS Papers received a custom-made enclosure, fabricated by Ms. Kim. Response to both of these endeavors has been overwhelmingly positive. Researchers are using the pamphlets more and the PAS Papers now are in a stable archival environment. We are grateful to the Network to Freedom for its support.

Notices

The Moncure Conway House in Falmouth, VA, designated UGRR Network to Freedom Site in 2004, has formed the Moncure Conway (MC) Foundation. Please visit our new web page at: www.moncureconway.org and learn more about the abolitionist Moncure Conway who led escaping freedom-seekers to the Conway Colony in Yellow Springs, Ohio. And, please view the information provided for becoming a Foundation member.

The MC Foundation sponsored the First Rappahannock Regional Juneteenth Celebration in 2006 and co-sponsored the Second in 2007.

~~~~~  
The Harriet Tubman Home is working on filling their library with history of the African people from the beginning of civilization, the forced migration to the Western hemisphere, and through the present day. This is a project of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC). For more information contact Sister Debra Johnson at [HTHome@localnet.com](mailto:HTHome@localnet.com).  
~~~~~

The Friends of the Network to Freedom Association proudly announces its inaugural conference. "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will be held September 10-15, 2007, in Georgetown, Kentucky. For more information, or to register, see www.ugrri.org
~~~~~

H.R. 1239, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization bill introduced by Congressmen Alcee Hastings and Michael Castle passed the House in July 2007.

In late June, Senator Joe Biden introduced S. 1709, the Senate companion bill to the Hastings/Castle initiative. S. 1709 already has 11 co-sponsors: Senators Alexander (TN), Cardin (MD), Carper (DE), Clinton (NY) Cochran (MS), Kennedy (MA), Kerry (MA), Levin (MI), Nelson (FL), Obama (IL), and Specter (PA).

For more information about this legislation see [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) or contact Alan Spears at [aspears@npca.org](mailto:aspears@npca.org)

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](http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr)

Diane Miller, **National**, [diane\\_miller@nps.gov](mailto:diane_miller@nps.gov)

James Hill, **Midwest**, [james\\_hill@nps.gov](mailto:james_hill@nps.gov)

Jenny Masur, **National Capital**,  
[jenny\\_masur@nps.gov](mailto:jenny_masur@nps.gov)

Sheri Jackson, **Northeast**, [sheri\\_jackson@nps.gov](mailto:sheri_jackson@nps.gov)

Barbara Tagger, **Southeast**,  
[barbara\\_tagger@nps.gov](mailto:barbara_tagger@nps.gov)

Guy Washington, **Pacific West & Intermoun-  
tain**, [guy\\_washington@nps.gov](mailto:guy_washington@nps.gov)

**Our Web Site has Changed—  
Again!**

Recent changes in the Net-  
work 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.nps.gov/ugrr/>

Network to Freedom informa-  
tion will also be found at  
[http://www.nps.gov/history/  
ugrr/](http://www.nps.gov/history/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 consid-  
eration 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 newslet-  
ter are also welcome.  
Deadlines are January 15  
and July 15.