



Network to Freedom



Live and Learn Weekends in Pennsylvania

By Morgan Barlow, Portfolio Associates, Inc.

Throughout the year, Pennsylvania will be offering hosted explorations of Underground Railroad and Civil War sites in Philadelphia, Lancaster, Pittsburgh and Erie. These *Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekends* also include a scholar-led discussion of a featured book on this vital period in American history.



Friday evening Live and Learn book discussion attendees in Philadelphia. Photo Portfolio Associates, Inc.

Pittsburgh: Dr. Katherine Ayres, Lecturer in English/Writing and Coordinator of the Writing for Children and Adolescents Program at Chatham University. (April 4-5 - Dr. Lesley Gordon, Professor of History at the University of Akron, OH)

Lancaster County: Dr. Louise Stevenson, Professor of History and American

On Friday evening of each weekend a scholar will lead a discussion of the featured book. On Saturday, the scholar will lead a tour of Underground Railroad and Civil War sites and then relate the book to the sites visited.

August 15 – 16: *Lincoln and Democracy* by Harold Holzer & Mario Cuomo

Several of these weekends will feature book signings by the authors.

Studies at Franklin and Marshall College

Philadelphia: Dr. LaTonya Thames-Taylor, Frederick Douglass Scholar and History Professor at West Chester University.

The first Live and Learn Weekend featured Lorene Carey's "The Price of a Child." Additional weekends throughout 2008 will continue these dialogues:

April 4 – 5: *The Colors of Courage* by Margaret Creighton

June 20 – 21: *Forever Free* by Eric Foner

The following scholars will lead the book discussions at each location.

Erie: Dr David Dixon, Professor of History and Director of the Old Stone House at Slippery Rock University. Slippery Rock University

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council (PHC) and Jump Street, Inc. are cosponsors of the Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekends. PHC will curate and facilitate the Unfinished Work Book Discussion Series and Jump

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Live and Learn Weekends

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Street will provide trained dialogue and first person living history facilitators to animate the events and engage you in this important conversation. Borders Books Inc, WITF-85FM, American Urban Radio Network, and The New Pittsburgh Courier have provided additional promotional support for this project.

Each weekend features great room rates, heritage tours, museum exhibits, reenactments, and restaurant outings. For more information or to join a Live and Learn Weekend, please visit www.visitpa.com/freedom



The Saturday tour in Philadelphia included a visit to Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. Its beautiful stained glass windows were recently refurbished. *Photo: Portfolio Associates, Inc.*



William Still and Lydia Smith, both successful African-American entrepreneurs during the late 19th century, share their stories of struggles to success during the Lancaster, PA weekend. *Photo: Portfolio Associates, Inc.*



Author Lorene Cary (l) and moderator Dr. LaTonya Thames-Taylor ® engage in a conversation about Cary's novel. *Photo: Jason Smith, GPTMC*

Live and Learn Weekends



As part of the mobile museum, a rare copy of William Still's *Underground Railroad*, is shown to the audience by Lorene Cary. Photo: Joe Labolito for Temple University

Philadelphia Quest for Freedom Live and Learn Weekend

By Almaz Kinder, Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing

On February 8 and 9, 2008, Philadelphia was one of six Pennsylvania cities to participate in the launch of *Quest for Freedom - Live & Learn Weekends*, a state-wide program that uses books as catalysts for visitor experiences that explore themes related to the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. Live & Learn Weekends was developed by two state agencies, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and Pennsylvania Tourism Office, with the goals of increasing visitation to Underground Railroad sites; providing enjoyable learning experiences; and encouraging program innovation at sites. The event took place at Quest for Freedom hub cities – Philadelphia, Lancaster, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Williamsport and Erie.

On Friday evening, February 8, more than 100 people gathered in Temple University's Paley Library Lecture Hall to participate in day one of the program hosted by the Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection. The selected book was Lorene Cary's historical novel, *The Price of a Child*. Cary, author, professor, founder and executive director of Art Sanctuary, was joined by Dr. Molefi K. Asante, author, educator and founder of Temple's African American Studies Ph.D. program, Dr. Diane Turner, curator of The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection and Dr. Latonya Thames-Taylor, Frederick Douglass Scholar and professor of history at West Chester University. On Saturday, February 9, the second day of the *Live & Learn Weekend*, there was a sold-out *Taking a Stand for Freedom* Underground Railroad tour led by V. Chapman Smith, Regional Direc-

tor of the National Archives Mid-Atlantic Region. Among the sites on the tour were Mother Bethel AME Church and the Johnson House, both National Network to Freedom sites and National Historic Landmarks. Joining the weekend as special guests and observers were national and international visitors from the African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference (ADHT).

Philadelphia Quest for Freedom, a regional interpretive program and a proud new member of the National Network to Freedom program, is led by the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation (GPTMC) and the Multicultural Affairs Congress of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. For information on the program, visit www.gophila.com/questforfreedom.

Abolitionist Gerrit Smith's Estate Saved in 2007

By Steve Joeckel, President Smithfield Community Association

Abolitionist Gerrit Smith spent his lifetime at his estate in Peterboro, New York. Hundreds of freedom-seekers came to the estate for safety and opportunity, and scores of abolitionists came to this site for support and rededication to the cause of antislavery. Smith was the major supporter of Frederick Douglass' publications and John Brown's raid at Harpers Ferry.

When Gerrit Smith's grandson died in 1937 the seven acre estate of the wealthy abolitionist was divided into three parcels and sold to private owners. Without the land and the still-standing buildings of the thirty structures that had once stood on the grounds, the story of Smith, freedom-seekers, and the Underground Railroad station could not be adequately told.

In 1994 one of the three parcels of private land was purchased by the not for profit Smithfield Community Association (SCA) and donated to the Town of Smithfield to be used for public benefit. In 2007 the second parcel was purchased with assistance from the Madison County Board of Supervisors and an Environmental Protection Fund grant through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. With the private donation of the third parcel in 2007 the boundaries of the estate have been made intact for the public. Additional buildings are now available to prepare as interpretive locations for Underground Railroad history. The SCA plans to preserve the structures and develop

interpretation. "The Lodge" will eventually provide an introduction and amenities for visitors. The Land Office and "The Barn" will include exhibits on Gerrit Smith and the Underground Railroad. "The Laundry" will tell the story of freedom seekers who came to Peterboro, including:

- Those who came to seek a haven from slavery like John "The Dominie" West who found freedom, self-employment, and social acceptance in Peterboro, and like William Smith, who was released from bondage by a Union commander from Peterboro during a Civil War siege in Virginia and whose descendants live in the region.
- Those who came to Peterboro on the way to freedom, often in groups moving north to Oswego where Gerrit Smith's land holdings provided further refuge, and like Harriet Powell and Peter Still.
- Those purchased from slavery by Smith like Harriet Russell who worked at "The Laundry" and raised a family whose descendants still reside in the area.
- Those who came for an education like Samuel Harrison who attended Smith's Manual Labor School for young black men, attended the inaugural meeting in Peterboro of the New York State Antislavery Society, and who became the chaplain for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment.
- Those who worked in the abolitionist movement like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth and Henry Highland Garnet who lived in Peterboro for a short time.
- Those who served in the Civil War with bravery and distinction, like Henry Charles, Private, Co. F., 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

- Those many who lie in the integrated Peterboro Cemetery under grave-stones marked *Born a Slave, Died a Free Wo/Man*.

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the Stewards for the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark will open the 2008 season with the annual birthday party for Gerrit Smith and a steward training session. The SCA will review the completed acquisition status of the estate and the planning for the property. Steward Committees will report on activities and upcoming summer programs and projects. Norman K. Dann, Ph.D. *professor emeritus* Morrisville State College, will provide stewards and the public with continuing information on Smith. This year Dr. Dann will introduce When We Get to Heaven: Runaway Slaves on the Road to Peterboro, published in February 2008. The book includes research by Town of Smithfield historian Donna Burdick with accounts of runaway slaves as they came to Peterboro using the Underground Railroad station there operated by abolitionists Gerrit Smith and his family and associates.

The Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark (GSENL) is located in the Hamlet of Peterboro in the Town of Smithfield in New York State. The estate is a site on the Network to Freedom and the Heritage NY Statewide Underground Railroad Trail. For more information: www.sca-peterboro.org
www.nyhistory.com/gerritsmith www.heritageny.gov

Candidates for Fifteenth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the fifteenth round of applications. On Wednesday, April 9, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the First Congregational Church, 33 E. Forest Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, (313-831-4080) 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.

Arizona

- Passage on the Underground Railroad: A Photographic Journey [program]

California

- Harriet Tubman: Bound for the Promised Land Jazz Oratorio [program]

Delaware

- John Dickinson Plantation [site]

DC

- Site of Leonard Grimes Property [site]

Indiana

- Carnegie Center for Art and History [facility]
- Chapman Harris Home Site [site]
- James and Lucy Nelson site [site]

Kentucky

- Underground Railroad Research Institute [program]

Maryland

- Best Farm/L'Hermitage (NPS)

[site]

- Carmichael Farm [site]
- Choptank River [site]
- Frederick Douglass Driving Tour of Talbot Co. [program]
- Gone North On A Secret Road [program]
- Maryland's Network to Freedom Map & Guide [program]
- Site of Arthur Leverton Farm [site]

Massachusetts

- Poets, Shoemakers and Freedom Seekers (NPS) [program]
- Samuel May, Jr., House [site]

New York

- Brooklyn Underground Railroad District [site]
- Griffith & Elizabeth Cooper Home [site]
- Haff-Smith Barn [site]
- Harriet Tubman Grave [site]
- Samuel & Elizabeth Cuyler [site]
- Sherwood Cemetery [site]
- Utica Rescue [site]
- Waterloo Library & Historical Society [facility]

North Carolina

- Friends Historical Collection, Guilford College [facility]
- Neuse River [site]
- Roanoke River [site]

Ohio

- Howard House [site]

Pennsylvania

- Cliveden [site]
- Eden Cemetery [site]
- Frederick Douglass Institute [site]
- Freedom in Philadelphia (Philadelphia Doll Museum) [program]
- Fulton Opera House (Old Lancaster Jail) [site]
- Underground Railroad Camps, [program]
- West Philadelphia Meetinghouse [site]

Virginia

- Brentsville Courthouse and Jail [site]
- Portsmouth's Waterfront [site]

PAINTING PORTRAITS OF THE McCLEW FAMILY

By Carol Murphy, Director, the McClew Interpretive Center at Murphy Orchards

Last year, we set out to paint a portrait of Charles McClew. Local folklore and oral tradition have long linked Charles McClew with the Underground Railroad in Niagara County, New York, but that's about all we knew. There were no diaries, no letters, no "smoking gun." Years ago, we visited the County Historian and the Town Historian and sifted

through a few old books and documents, and found nothing. Just local folklore. But over the years we talked to people, recorded memories, and filed bits of information away. Eventually, from this small beginning, our research allowed us to paint not only a single portrait, but a vibrant mural full of colorful characters. Had it not been for the Network to Freedom's premise that folklore and oral history are not to be dis-

missed, the stories of this fascinating family may well have been lost. It has been like throwing a pebble in a pond. We did come up with an actual portrait of Charles McClew, and we learned a lot about him. But then, like waves radiating out from a single point, we found a family filled with people of exceptionally strong character, and of people whose stories were echoes and reverberations of Charles McClew's involvement in

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

The fall 2007 public review meeting for Network to Freedom applications was held in Georgetown, Kentucky. The regional program manager committee accepted the following 28 listings into the Network, bringing the total to 328.

Delaware

- Appoquinimink Friends Meeting [site]
- Corbit-Sharp House [site]

Georgia

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

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]
- Stephen Bogue Commemorative Marker [site]

New Jersey

- Abigail & Elizabeth Goodwin Home [site]

New York

- Awaakaba’s Riverstroll [program]
- Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims [site]

New York (continued)

- Sandy Ground Historical Society [program]
- Second Street Cemetery [site]
- Solomon Northup Day [program]

Ohio

- King Farm [site]

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]
- Pennsylvania Quest for Freedom, Philadelphia [program]

Virginia

- Spotsylvania County Courthouse and Jail [site]

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the Underground Railroad - stories that spread across hundreds of miles and decades of time. One of our favorites is of Charles’s youngest sister, Nancy. Nancy McClew McCollum may also have been involved in the Underground Railroad as a young woman, and later, she was certainly one of the “Belva Lockwood for President” ring leaders in Niagara County. In the November 1884 election, she went to the polls and cast her vote. Like the Underground Railroad, the activity was illegal; women were barred from voting by law. Shortly after the election, warrants were issued for the arrest of many of the women in New York who had cast ballots. Nancy McClew McCollum didn’t wait to find out if she was one of them. She packed her bags,



Charles McClew

fled the state, and suddenly appeared unannounced in Steuben County, Indiana. Nancy’s two older brothers, Robert and John, had left Niagara County early in the 1800s, and both are also believed to have been involved in the Underground Railroad in Steuben County, Indiana (but that’s another story!). Nancy spent the win-

ter with her brothers and their grown children. While in their midst, she never once mentioned why she had arrived so unexpectedly, and prolonged her stay without explanation for months. Nor did anyone presume to ask her. The family had learned to be both circumspect and reticent from an early age! Eventually, the Governor of New York pardoned the offenders, and Nancy escaped arrest and jail by her own “flight to freedom.” Nancy’s daughter Mary quoted her mother as saying: “If they put us in jail, we’ll sing and pray until they will be glad to let us out.” A tactic familiar in recent history. Her nephew, Maurice McClew, wisely quipped: “If the singing had been like that of most of the McClews I have known, the release might have been pretty speedy.”

Freedom Lies Just North: The Underground Railroad in Adams County

By Debra McCauslin,
Historian

To see two of the three Adams County, PA sites listed on the NPS National Network to Freedom, take the new tour called *Freedom Lies Just North: The Underground Railroad in Adams County*. You will stand atop Yellow Hill looking down on Gettysburg's Big and Little Round Tops and you'll learn about the pre-Civil War,

African-American community that once placed a church and cemetery on this high hill. You'll learn how they worked with the Menallen Friends who lived beside them in the pristine Quaker Valley. Along the way, you'll see acres and acres of fruit trees that the Quakers planted many years



Flags adorn the United States Colored Troops veterans' graves at Yellow Hill Cemetery, Butler Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. You can visit this site while on the Underground Railroad Tour of Adams County and you'll learn who they were, how they came up from slavery, how this settlement just 10 miles north of Gettysburg came to be and how it disappeared after their church was burned to the ground as a deliberate act of racism.

ago. You will sit in their meeting-house and find out about the Griests and their cousins William and Phebe Wright who aided the freedom seeker who changed his name to James W. C. Pennington after the Wrights taught him to read and write. Pennington later performed a marriage ceremony

contact Debra McCauslin at For the Cause Productions at www.gettysburghistories.com or www.freedomliesnorth.org or call 717-528-8553.

for Frederick Douglass. You'll understand how they aided over 1,000 freedom seekers in the county that later became the site of the bloodiest battle of the Civil War. Portions of tour proceeds are donated to preserve the sites seen on the tour.

For more information,

“On the Right Track”

**10 Years of the National Underground Railroad
Network to Freedom
September 15-20, 2008**

In 1998, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was signed into law to help preserve the history and educate the public about the Underground Railroad. As a result of this legislation, there are now 328 national recognized Underground Railroad sites, programs, and facilities.

In order to commemorate this important and historic legislation, the Friends of the Network to Freedom Association and the NPS will sponsor a conference at the Holiday Inn Hotel, located in the Historic District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The conference will feature pre- and post-conference

events, exhibits, tours, speakers, workshops, and more.

Future conferences are scheduled for Indianapolis for 2009 and Topeka in 2010.

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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

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Websites of Interest

**Allegany County, Maryland
African American History, in
partnership with the Western
Maryland Historical Library
(WHILBR):**

[http://www.whilbr.org/
AlleganyAfricanAmericans/
index.aspx](http://www.whilbr.org/AlleganyAfricanAmericans/index.aspx)

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**Valley of the Shadow**

The Valley Project detail s life  
in Augusta County, Virginia,  
and Franklin County, Pennsyl-  
vania from the time of John  
Brown's Raid through Recon-  
struction through a digital ar-  
chive with thousands of docu-  
ments.

<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>

## 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.,  
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Comments on the newslet-  
ter are also welcome.  
Deadlines are January 15  
and July 15.