



Network to Freedom



My Involvement with the National Park Service's Junior Ranger Program

By Sam Maslow, student, Ezra Academy,
Queens, New York

“Hi, my name is Sam Maslow, and I’m 15 years old. I live in Brooklyn, NY, and I’m what you call a National Park enthusiast.” That has been my opening line in my numerous classroom presentations which I have done on the Junior Ranger programs that are available at our country’s National Parks.

How did I get involved in the Junior Ranger Program? When I was eleven years old, we took a family vacation by car and drove to the Midwest. We stopped at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM) in St. Louis. In the Visitor Center my dad spotted a sign asking kids if they would want to become a Junior Ranger. We inquired at the desk and were given a booklet of activities to complete about the park site. With my parent’s help, I was able to complete all the activities as I learned about the JNEM site. We then returned the booklet to the Visitor Center desk and I was awarded my very first badge. We were then informed by a park ranger that this program for kids is available at other National Parks as well. That badge became the first of my large collection of badges and patches.



Sam Maslow introduces students to the Underground Railroad Junior Ranger booklet. Photo by Aaron Maslow.

Over the next several years I visited numerous National Park sites with my family while we were on vacations. We drove by car through many states visiting park sites so I could earn badges and patches. When I was in 7th grade, I decided that I would like to have my own Web site where I could display my badges and patches, as well as inform other kids and adults about the program. So, my dad and I got software from Yahoo and created the site and dubbed it www.juniorranger.info. By the time I completed 7th grade I had earned about 250 badges and patches.

It was through my Web site that an editor of *Science Studies Weekly* newspaper contacted me about writing an article about my involvement with the Junior Ranger Program. I

of course said yes. The following summer I was in Alaska, on our biggest car trip summer vacation ever, when I received an email, via the “Contact” link on my Web site, from a 5th grade teacher at Liberty Magnet School in Sebastian, Florida. The class had read about me in *Science Studies Weekly* and had gone to my Web site. The teacher wrote that if I ever was in Florida the class would love to meet me and hear about the Junior Ranger Program. It was from this email that an idea was born. I was entering high school that September, and in addition to my course of studies, I would have to complete

(Continued on page 4)

Healthy History

Underground Railroad Bicycle Route Receives Award

By Virginia Sullivan, Routes Outreach Coordinator, Adventure Cycling Association

The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route (UGRR) has been honored with the American Trails National Partnership Award. The award recognizes the unique partnership forged between Adventure Cycling Association and the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Minority Health to create a 2,058-mile bicycle route memorializing the Underground Railroad. The route runs from Mobile, Alabama, north to Owen Sound, Ontario.

Adventure Cycling began its partnership with the Center for Minority Health in 2004. With America facing a national health crisis, Adventure Cycling and the Center for Minority Health recognized a natural alliance born from common goals and mutually beneficial areas of expertise. The results have far exceeded both organizations' expectations.

Adventure Cycling sales of the Underground Railroad map have been exceptional (with 4,150 maps sold since 2007) and the Association has seen a significant leap in the number of African Americans participating in its tours. The route has also facilitated impressive educational projects such as the Bronx Lab School's 2008 initiative, "Health and History: Biking the Underground Railroad," a week-long educational tour through the

historically rich Ohio section. WPXI-TV (Pittsburgh) produced *Biking Through Black History*, a 30 minute Black History Month special highlighting the creation of the route. The first set of day trip



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. Photo by Adventure Cycling Association/Dennis Coello.

maps (to make the route accessible to all ages and abilities) was created in partnership with Brown County Tourism Board for the community of Ripley, OH. A Pittsburgh spur was also created. Pittsburgh's Major Taylor Bike Club worked with Adventure Cycling to complete the route research.

One of the most significant outcomes created by the route is the opportunity for cyclists to connect with Underground Railroad communities. In its inaugural year, libraries and museums in small communities along the route became important "safe house" cycling hubs and began hosting events for cyclists, such as historical reenactments, and included them in established celebrations. Libraries became especially important, offering shelter, Internet ser-

vices and providing a connection to the community itself. Individuals and organizations can sponsor their public libraries to be Adventure Cycling members through its Adopt-a-Library program (www.adventurecycling.org/membership/adopt.cfm). The Association encourages libraries to join WebJunction (www.webjunction.org), a free, online community created for public libraries to develop events and utilize technology.

The American Trails Board received over 200 nominations for their Awards Program, which are one way they recognizes the exemplary people across the landscape of America who are working to create a national system of trails to meet the recreation, health, and travel needs of all Americans.



Cyclists can enjoy a day trip or a trek along the entire 2,058-mile Underground Railroad Bicycle Route. Photo by Adventure Cycling Association/Dennis Coello.

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2009

Freedom Trails at the Crossroads

3rd National Underground Railroad Summit

This year's conference takes a cue from our host city, Indianapolis, Indiana often referred to as the "Crossroads of America" and explores the Underground Railroad as a meeting point and zone of contact where cultures, geographies, regions, races, ethnicities, religious and political ideologies, met and interacted. In addition to exploring past Underground Railroad connections, the conference seeks to explore ways in which present day interest in the story of the Underground Railroad transcends local history in favor of making national connections with global significance.

The four day conference will feature pre- and post-conference events, exhibits, speakers, and workshops, hosted at the Hilton-Indianapolis North. Make your reservations early at *1-800-Hilton* to receive the conference rate.

To receive Summit updates, travel and conference discounts, registration packets, and the latest conference information, please visit www.UGRfriends.org.

We look forward to seeing **YOU in 2009!**

2009 Conference Co-Hosts: Georgetown College Underground Railroad Research Institute, the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, Indiana Freedom Trails, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology (DHPA)

Junior Ranger Ambassador

(Continued from page 1)

100 hours of community service over the next four years. I realized I could give classroom lectures about the Junior Ranger Program and get the word out about them, plus, I would get community service credit.

In January 2008, my dad drove me down to Florida, where I spoke to four fifth grade students at Liberty Magnet School. Since then I have spoken to fifth graders at Hunter College Elementary School in New York City, fifth grade students at P.S. 217 in Brooklyn, and, most recently, to five fifth grade classes in Dixie Middle School in New Lebanon, Ohio.

I had never really talked to people in public before, let alone given full one-hour lectures. I prepared an outline of what I wanted to cover and got to work. I wrote letters and sent emails to various park sites that I had visited



Sam Maslow describes the National Park Service Junior Ranger Program to fifth graders. Photo by Aaron Maslow.

and enjoyed before, asking for copies of their Junior Ranger booklets and park brochures. Many park sites answered. Before long I put together folders filled with booklets, maps and brochures for the students. In addition I created my own booklet on the Junior Ranger Program so that the students could get a feel for what was in store. I sent the booklets that I created to the teachers in advance of my visit for their students to work on. In addition, this past year I created a Keynote

presentation (Apple's equivalent of PowerPoint) on my MacBook as a fun way for me to present my lectures about the National Parks and Junior Ranger Program to students.

My favorite subject is American History, and I especially like learning about the African-American experience in our country. I've been to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Maggie Walker, and Tuskegee Institute National Historic Sites, among others. I contacted Barbara Tagger, Southeast Program manager of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, and she helped me out by providing me Underground Railroad Junior Ranger booklets and badges for all my lectures. The booklet really does a good job of explaining the Underground Railroad to youngsters in a fun and creative way through puzzles, drawing, and creative writing. I hope that the students will be inspired to visit Underground Railroad sites themselves.

Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of John Brown's Last Trip to Lawrence, Kansas

By Judy Sweets, UGRR Association of Douglas County, Kansas

One hundred and fifty (150) years ago abolitionist John Brown arrived in Lawrence, Kansas on his last trip through Kansas. He and his men brought with them 11 African-American freedom-seekers liberated from slavery in Missouri in December 1858, and a free-born baby named John Brown Daniels born near Garnett, Kansas.

For several days in January 1859, the 12 black men, women and children took refuge from slave catchers in the Joel Grover barn, a station on the Un-

derground Railroad about three miles southwest of downtown Lawrence.

After their sojourn at the Grover Barn, the group, led by John Brown, continued in a covered wagon more than 1,500 miles on an Underground Railroad journey in the dead of winter through Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois to Detroit, Michigan where they crossed into Canada and freedom.

The stone barn, now owned by the City of Lawrence, and formerly Fire station #4 is still standing today at the corner of Lawrence Avenue and Stonebarn Terrace.

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of John Brown's historic last trip to Lawrence and in honor of "station-masters" Joel and Emily Grover and the 12 brave freedom-seekers on the 1859 Underground Railroad trip, the Underground Railroad Association of Douglas County, Kansas, with support from the City of Lawrence, placed lights in two windows at the former Grover barn to shine each night from January 24 through January 28th.

Faces of the Underground Railroad

By Sylvia D'Alessandro, Executive Director,
Sandy Ground Historical Society

The Sandy Ground Historical Society unveiled its exhibit "Faces of the Underground Railroad," at a special preview on January 8, 2009. The exhibit consists of 20 quilt squares created by the women in the organization's quilt group. The quilt squares provide images of the known and not so well known participants in the Underground Railroad. Each quilt square has an accompanying narrative on the life of the person or thing presented. The intent is to introduce the not so well known participants and to present again the known



Ms. D'Alessandro and the "Faces" exhibit.
Photo by Judy Vannais

participants of the Underground Railroad. The hope is to expand the interest of the general public by providing information that is not usually provided to the public at large. Using art to present these historic figures provides another venue for the general public to become more exposed to the activities of the Underground Railroad.

The exhibit was funded in part by a National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program Grant.

"His Soul Goes Marching On": John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Detroit and the Path to Freedom

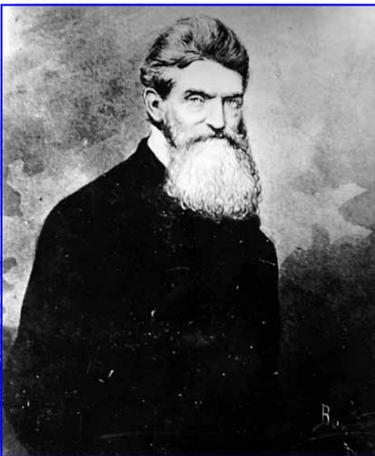
The University of Michigan, Dearborn, and the Charles Wright Museum of African American History (MAAH) in Detroit, are holding a symposium to commemorate John

Brown's meeting in Detroit with Frederick Douglass and local African American leaders on March 12, 1859. The symposium will be held on March 12, 2009 at the museum and will be the kick-off event for the Michigan Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration.

three African-American women and their connections to Brown. Also featured at the symposium will be a conversation with descendants of those who met with Brown, as well as representatives of organizations such as Detroit's Second Baptist Church. The Reverend Charles Adams will talk about the Brown legacy at a luncheon. Winners of a high school essay competition will be announced. Attendees will also be treated to two dramatic readings.

In short, the event will be a full and exciting day.

Presenters include Paul Finkelman, who will be speaking on Brown; Diane Barnes, who will be addressing the relationship between Douglass and Brown; John Quist, who will be examining Michigan's abolitionist community and its response to Brown; Ahmad Rahman, who will talk about Detroit's antebellum African American community; Veta Tucker, who will discuss a project that she has done on



Portrait of John Brown, 1859, from the Bowman Gallery, Ottawa, Illinois.
Photo: Historic Photo Collection, Harpers Ferry NHP.

Freedom Seeking Public Art

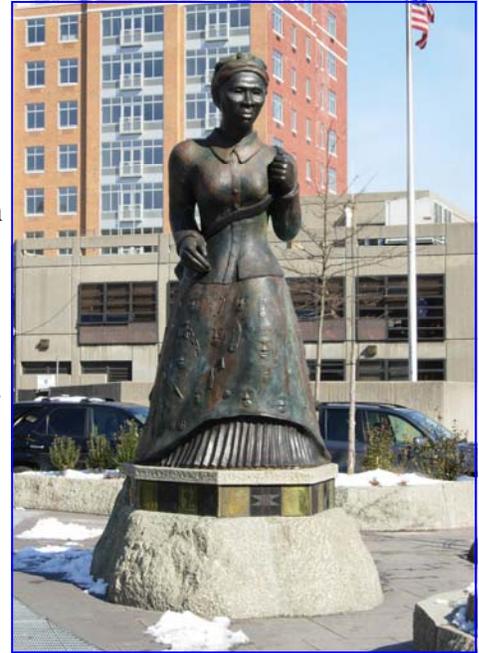
by Kathleen Hulser, Public Historian, New-York Historical Society

In November 2008, New York City welcomed its latest addition to the public landscape of human rights, the Swing Low: Harriet Tubman Memorial. Located in a triangular park in Harlem at the intersection of West 122nd Street, Frederick Douglass Boulevard and St. Nicholas Avenue, the thirteen-foot high bronze sculpture sits amidst curved stone borders reminiscent of rivers and shrubs from Tubman's native Maryland and later home state of New York. The artist Alison Saar says, "I wanted people to see how strong and young Harriet was. She was so brave, and made sacrifices to go South again and again to rescue people. I see her as fit and determined. I left a furrow in her brow to show her intensity and I made her shoulders muscled." Saar also played with the ample skirt Tubman wore, turning her bottom half into a locomotive, with the petticoat appearing as a cowcatcher beneath the hem. Tubman's relentless, forward motion pulls up slavery by the roots behind her. The only other full-scale statue of a real American woman in New York City is that of former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, another

noted human rights activist who drafted the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

The New York Historical Society, as part of its ongoing consideration of the contexts and documents of the Underground Railroad, presented a talk on December 10th, celebrating the new statue. State Senator Bill Perkins, who with former Manhattan Borough President Virginia Fields helped secure money for the sculpture, spoke of that effort and the upcoming renaming of St. Nicholas Avenue to Harriet Tubman Boulevard. New-York Historical Society Public Historian Kathleen Hulser showed images during a slide talk to an enthusiastic audience gathered to hear about how the invisible movements of Harriet Tubman meshed with a highly visible Black public sphere.

In the 1850s, as Tubman made repeated trips south to bring enslaved people to freedom, African American New Yorkers were helping fugitives, agitating to end such laws as the Fugitive Slave Act, and making public demands that demonstrated how Northerners would refuse to cooperate with the new Federal laws. Hulser's presentation of images from the New-York His-



Harriet Tubman Memorial. Photo by Clare Richfield, New-York Historical Society.

torical Society's Collections included rare period drawings of David Ruggles, Isaac Hopper and Samuel Cornish, and examples of anti-slavery tokens. The audience was invited to view Alison Saar's model for the Harriet Tubman bronze sculpture in Harlem. The small figure is on loan from the Phyllis Kind Gallery and can be seen until Summer 2009 at the Society. This program was developed with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural (URR) Program.

Save the Date

Waterways to Freedom: The Journey from Hampton Roads, Virginia

March 21, 2009
Norfolk, Virginia

www.nsu.edu/waterwaystofreedom

**Speakers: Daniel Sayers, Tommy Bogger, Brent Morris,
John Kneebone, Cassandra Newby-Alexander**

Candidates for Seventeenth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the seventeenth round of applications on April 1, 2009, at the Board of Aldermen's building, 115 South Peal Street in Natchez, Mississippi. The public is invited to attend. For further information, please contact Barbara Tagger at 404-562-3108, x 518, or at Barbara_tagger@nps.gov. To comment on the applications, please contact Diane Miller at 402-661-1588 or diane_miller@nps.gov.

California

- Bethel A.M.E. Church [site]

DC

- City Hall, Washington, DC [site]

Delaware

- Camden Friends Meetinghouse [site]

Florida

- Fort Mose [site]

Indiana

- Oswell Wright Historic Marker [site]
- Union Literary Institute [site]

Kansas

- Owens House [site]

Louisiana

- Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Northwestern State University of Louisiana [facility]
- Fort of Los Adaes [site]

Maryland

- Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park [site]

Massachusetts

- Massachusetts Historical Society [facility]

Michigan

- Isaac Bailey Gravesite, Oak Hill Cemetery [site]
- Nutting-Hurd House [site]

New Jersey

- William Still meets Peter Gist [program]

New York

- African American Ancestral Burial Ground (Vale Cemetery) [site]
- "Moses Viney Tells His Story" [program]
- Utica Rescue at Judge Hayden's Law Office [site]

Pennsylvania

- Atwater Kent Museum, Quest for Freedom: Friday Afternoon Public Programs [program]
- Atwater Kent Museum, Quest for Freedom: School & After-school Students [program]
- Atwater Kent Museum, Quest for Freedom: Teacher Workshops [program]
- LeMoyne House [site]
- Riverview [site]

Virginia

- Aquia Landing [site]

Wisconsin

- Site of the Samuel Brown Farm [site]

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

The fall 2009 public review meeting for Network to Freedom applications was held in Sonoma, California. The regional program manager committee accepted the following 18 listings into the Network, bringing the total to 373.

DC

- Site of the John Little Farm [site]

Georgia

- National Archives and Records Administration, Southeast Region [facility]

Maryland

- Northampton Slave Quarters [site]
- Freedom Site of Emily Plummer (Riversdale) [site]

Massachusetts

- National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region—Boston [facility]

New York

- Brooklyn Historical Society [facility]
- Griffith and Elizabeth Cooper Home [site]
- New York Historical Society [facility]
- National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region—New York [facility]
- Underground Railroad Heritage Trail [program]
- Woodlawn Cemetery [site]

North Carolina

- Pathway to Freedom [program]

Ohio

- Hudson Library and Historical Society [facility]

Pennsylvania

- City of Philadelphia Archives [facility]
- Site of Old Lancaster County Jail [site]
- Mary Ritner Boarding House/John Brown House [site]
- Thaddeus Stevens' Caledonia Iron Furnace Monument [site]

Virginia

- Burial Site of Rev. Leonard A. Black [site]

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U.S. Department of the Interior

**National Underground Railroad Network
to Freedom Program Managers**

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**Contribute to the
Newsletter**

Please forward notices,
items of interest, articles, or
topic suggestions for consid-
eration to Diane Miller at
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Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or
at diane_miller@nps.gov.

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