



THE CONDUCTOR

The official newsletter of
The National Capital Region
Network to Freedom Program

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New DC Area Members of the Network to Freedom Program

The National Underground Railroad (UGRR) Network to Freedom now has more than 225 members. The Network to Freedom proudly announces new members in the greater Washington metropolitan area determined eligible in Indianapolis on April. In Virginia, there was one new site, Birch's Slave Pen (also known as Franklin & Armfield) a former slave pen used to house refugees from slavery during the Civil War. Dorchester County Courthouse (Maryland) is significantly related to the UGRR because Harriet Tubman's niece escaped from the auction block in front and because Rev. Samuel Green



Coordinators pose in front of the Georgetown National Historic Landmark in Madison, Indiana. NPS Photo.

was tried there. Frederick Douglass Freedom & Heritage Trail & Tour of UGRR Sites (Baltimore, MD) is a walking tour as is In Their Steps (Rockville, MD). Also in the Baltimore area two properties were nominated, estates associated with iron furnaces. The first is Mount Clare (Baltimore City). The

second is an NPS park unit Hampton NHS (Towson, MD) which during 200 years of enslaved labor had at least 75 escapes (surely because of the proximity of Baltimore and the Pennsylvania line).

In southern Maryland a number of sites were accepted: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, Old Jail of St. Mary's County, Point Lookout State Park, and Port Tobacco Courthouse showing the range of UGRR-related activities - enlistment and stationing of US Colored Troops, detention of freedom seekers in jail, escapes to the British, and the start of an armed escape of men that made it as far as Rockville.

NPS Unveils New Civil War Web Site

The official NPS Civil War Web Site (<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/>) will enable youth to connect with a historic national crisis. "We are excited about this new web site," said Fran Mainella, NPS Director. "The NPS has more than 70 parks with resources related to the history of the Civil War where our visitors can tour the real places where this struggle occurred nearly 150 years ago... We are particularly pleased that our web site will link to two major partners, National Geographic and the Civil War Preservation Trust, for more information on mapping and

on battlefield preservation." Among the listed parks are some of the Network's members (either for programs or as sites): Arlington House, C & O Canal NHP (for Ferry Hill), Hampton NHS, Frederick Douglass NHS, Fort Donelson NB, Fort Pulaski NM, Boston African American NHS, Stones River NB, and Harpers Ferry NHP. The Network to Freedom hopes to have its web site linked too, given that Civil War "contrabands" were refugees from enslavement and that many bondsmen enlisted in the US Colored Troops and Union Navy

directly from enslavement. The Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War will run 2011 through 2015. In addition to commemorating four years of war, it will highlight events leading up to and serving as a catalyst for the war. The official NPS Web Site will provide links, not only to the national parks, but also to resources about the events, participants, leading figures, and historical context, and about other organizations commemorating the Civil War. The web offers the opportunity to search for ancestors through the Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System.

Apply For "Save Our History" Grants

In 2004-2005, the History Channel awarded \$250,000 to 29 local history organizations in 27 states. Again, history organizations can apply for up to \$10,000 each to help fund unique, hands-on student projects to teach about local history and to actively engage students in the preservation of their local heritage. To answer questions on grants, contact: info@saveourhistory.com. Talk to local school superintendents and

principals, teachers, or youth groups about participating in the Save Our History initiative by applying for a grant in 2005-2006. The History Channel is collaborating with the National Council for Social Studies on the development of new Save Our History activities to use in the classroom or in local history organizations. The History Channel will provide FREE Save Our History Educator's Manuals to you or your partner educators.

Lightening Strikes! Network Grants Available in FY '05

Lightening has struck. Congress has given the Network to Freedom over \$200,000 in community grants to distribute to Network to Freedom members by the end of FY 05. The deadline, June 15, meant a quick turn-around time for members who were only notified about the grants in April. Members applied for 1:1 matching grants for bricks and mortar preservation and for research projects related to UGRR stories in their nominations to the Network to Freedom. By July 8 the applications for grants were reviewed. Awardees have been notified.

National Trust Lists An UGRR Site As Endangered

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has featured UGRR on this year's list of the 11 most endangered sites in the USA. On the list is Eleutherian College in IN, one of the first US colleges pre-Civil War to accept students regardless of gender or race. It is a Network to Freedom member and has received a grant from the Network to Freedom. Despite being a NHL, it is dilapidated and vandalized. It was involved in escapes to freedom.

Also on the list is a region,



Eleutherian College in Indiana.
NPS Photo.

"Journey Through Hallowed Ground," supported by a Coalition of the same name, stretching from Gettysburg to Monticello. The "Journey Through Hallowed Ground"

corridor follows US Route 15 and Route 20 on a 175-mile meandering course from Gettysburg, PA, through Frederick Co., MD, and ending in Charlottesville, VA. Possible UGRR sites included are Aldie Mill District, Waterford, Breomo Slave Chapel, Goose Creek (home of an antislavery Friends meeting), Oatlands, and Loudoun Museum as well as the plantations of Jefferson, Monroe, and Madison.

Visit:

<http://www.hallowedground.org/>.

UGRR Training Held At Three Park Sites

A total of 48 students participated in the UGRR training sessions at Harpers Ferry, NCR Headquarters, and GWMP. The goals of the training were to orient participants to the Network to Freedom and to educate them on the NPS definition of UGRR, UGRR activities in NCR, and strategies to find out more about UGRR in NCR. Do YOU know who Leonard Grimes and William Chaplin were? What escape started outside the White House gates? Have you ever visited the Moorland Spingarn Research Center at Howard University? What constitutes strong evidence for UGRR activity? Your friendly trainer, the NCR Network to Freedom coordinator, is ready and willing to educate wherever requested. Meanwhile, take advantage of UGRR training materials (including a bibliography) posted to the NCR internal web, in the UGRR section. Create greater awareness of UGRR history at your site!

DC Preservation League Puts MLK Library on Watch List

When DC Preservation League issued its local version of the National Trust's Most Endangered List, it included a "Watch List." Sadly the Martin Luther King, Jr., Library, DC's central library and the home of the Washingtoniana Collection, is on the list. Remember your commitment to rescue DC's libraries?

D.C. Profiles: Charlotte Forten Grimke

by Antonietta Neri, Intern, National Capital Region

Charlotte Forten Grimke (1837 -1913) was an important African American abolitionist. She was the granddaughter of James Forten, a successful businessman of his generation who was a strong supporter of the anti-slavery movement. Although she wasn't the first in her family to take a strong stand for something she believed in, she was able to make her own mark on the world around her. As a child, she spent a lot of time at the homes of her grandfather and Robert Purvis, president of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee, which allowed her to be inundated by contact with the leading spirits of the movement almost daily.

When she reached school age her father refused to send her to Philadelphia's segregated schools, choosing instead to get her private tutors. With all the opportunities she was afforded, Charlotte developed an excellent sense of self and acquired an intense need to prove herself as an African American woman. She continued her education

until she finished a one year course at the State Normal School at Salem, MA. In Salem she was then hired as a teacher at the Epes Grammar School in 1856, the first African American to instruct white children. She taught for three years until she fell ill to what was referred to as "lung fever."

Grimke spent time recovering in Philadelphia until the Civil War began. Then, when Union soldiers took over cotton plantations on St. Helena Island, SC, situated between Charleston and Savannah, they implemented a program where they planned to enable freedman to excel and live as free citizens. This became known as the Port Royal Experiment. The goal was to offer African American freedmen the education programs necessary to ensure that they could be successful as equal citizens. Charlotte was among the volunteer teachers; she wanted to do all she could to help her race.

Because she approached

the program with an idealist perspective, she was disappointed and fell into a depression, feeling that her teaching was less and less rewarding. She left the island and went back to Philadelphia where she spent seven years living a quiet life. Grimke occasionally published various articles, taught, and studied poets.

In 1871-72 she moved to Washington, DC, to assist an African American educator, Richard Greener, during his principalship of the Sumner High School. In 1873 she took a clerkship position in the federal Treasury Department. She joined D.C.'s Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church where she met her future husband, the pastor Francis James Grimke, who was from SC, a natural enslaved son of Henry Grimke. She spent the remainder of her life in DC with her husband, the only low point being the death of their only child, Theodora Cornelia, in infancy. Charlotte Grimke passed away in Washington at the age of seventy-six in 1914 and was buried in

Mary Mauzy's Nightmare: Local Reaction to John Brown's 1859 Raid

by Melinda Day, Harpers Ferry NHP

We still live with the legacy of John Brown's Raid. Mary Mauzy, her Armory worker husband, and their son, George, became eyewitnesses to the revolutionary raid by John Brown. John Brown seized the Armory on the night of October 16th, 1859, with his "Provisional Army" of 16 white and 5 black men, attempting to arm slaves and start a war on slavery. By the morning of the 18th, Brown and the surviving raiders were captured by US Marines. Brown's ill-fated attempt to seize weapons from the US armory to arm and free slaves ended in his capture, imprisonment, trial and execution for conspiring insurrection, treason, and murder in 1859. The Raid hastened the Civil War and the emancipation of African Americans.

After the Raid, Mary's letters written from Harpers Ferry contain resolve that life will continue as before but with a new edge of awareness and preparedness. Even the children were aware, her son for example learning to fire a weapon and play war against slave insurrectionists. Mary believed in the peaceful and faithful nature of her black neighbors in the slaveholding south. She believed her black neighbors were frightened by Brown's plan. Because Harpers Ferry's enslaved and free African-Americans did not participate in the Raid,



John Brown re-inactor Emmanuel Dabney.
NPS Photo.

Mary interpreted this as lack of support and instead feared white abolitionists.

Mary wrote to her stepdaughter, Eugenia, living in England, on how Brown's Raid had transformed the hearts and minds of Harpers Ferry's white and black citizens.

Eugenia, . . . everyone, children and all seem to have a warlike feeling. I made little George a blue jacket with gilt buttons, on Saturday evening he wore it and the boys called him Captain of the Marines. His papa gave him a double barrel pistol and sometimes he will hold it and let little George shoot. Little George says to tell you "I've a pistol and I am going to shoot slaves with it.

She demonstrated her lack of fear when she hired a free African American woman to cook and clean. She noted to Eugenia,

I have been fortunate enough to get a good capable woman this year. You remember Lucy, Charlotte Piper's daughter. It's her. She is the best I ever had. She is a nice cook and so cleanly about everything. How do you get along with white help? You said in your letters you expected I almost despised the sight of a Negro. No indeed. Since the insurrection, the poor niggers have been so frightened. None of them believed that old Brown wanted to free them.

Several months after the raid and in fear of future attacks, a committee of eleven women, including Mary Mauzy, wrote the Secretary of War asking permission to hold a fund raiser in a government building for the benefit of the militia company, the Floyd Rifles. The specter of John Brown lingered in the streets of Harpers Ferry. Mary and other women helped ready friends and neighbors for future attacks and eventual civil war should the state of VA secede from the Union and declare independence. Elsewhere, too, support of local militia companies boomed. The streets of Harpers Ferry were patrolled nightly by armed citizens in the fear of renewed violence by antislavery supporters. When Civil War arrived, Mary and her family cast their lot with the Confederacy.

NCR UGRR PARK UPDATES & ACTIVITIES

54th Massachusetts Infantry Visits Frederick Douglass NHS

On May 15, Frederick Douglass NHS commemorated a "Day of Remembrance" for the men of the famed 54th Massachusetts USCT (featured in the movie "Glory"). The program featured a living history encampment on the lawn of Cedar Hill by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, B Company, Washington, D.C., and a talk by Hari Jones of the African American Civil War Museum. The participating volunteers are dedicated to preserving the history of the regiment. Frederick Douglass, the great orator and abolitionist, recruited soldiers for the USCT with the assistance of his son Frederick Douglass, Jr., who even recruited his brothers.

OXON COVE DOCUMENTS FREEDOM SEEKER

Wherever slavery existed, there was attempted flight to freedom. On the Berry farm, at least one person is known to have escaped. On Dec. 5, 1840, Thomas Berry placed an advertisement in the *Daily National Intelligencer* requesting information and/or the return of an enslaved person named Jacob Shaw. In the same paper a second ad was placed by a neighboring farmer at Salubria, John Bayne, seeking the return of Samuel Tyler, thought to have fled at the same time as Shaw. The fate of these men is unknown, but given the proximity of the free black community of Washington, DC, it is quite possible they sought shelter there.

FAIRFAX/PRINCE WILLIAM GATHERING MOBILIZES UGRR INTEREST

On May 27, at the antebellum black community of Gum Springs, the Network to Freedom and the Gum Springs Historical Society sponsored the first UGRR Gathering for Fairfax and Prince William Counties. The goal was to mobilize interest in runaway bondsmen, antislavery activities, USCT, and contrabands in those two counties. So far, the only Network to Freedom member from either county is Sully Historic Site in Fairfax. There were three panels - two on interpretation (documentation of association with UGRR and reaching new constituencies) and the other on funding sources (National Endowment for the Humanities, VA Foundation for the Humanities, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Virginia State Historic Preservation Office). Representatives from the RELIC Room (Bull Run Library), Mount Vernon, Manassas NB, Sully, Gunston Hall, and the Alexandria City Archeologist appeared on the panels. Alan Spears of the National Park Conservation Association, facilitated a quick discussion at the end.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR EVENTS

People

This summer we welcome Antonietta Neri (Toney), a Communications major from Western Illinois University. She will be interning with the UGRR NCR coordinator for 8 weeks before her senior year. One of her many duties this summer is to serve as guest editor of this issue!

Goodbye, Vincent deForest. We will miss your expertise and enthusiasm. You worked long and hard to promote the history of UGRR starting before the passage of the Special Resource Study legislation and the 1998 Act. You reached out to constituencies all over the US.

Slave Burial Project

The American Slave Burial Project is dedicated to researching all burial grounds of enslaved African Americans of the African Diaspora. They are currently collecting data on any burial ground in the US that would hold valuable information regarding slave and plantation life and/or possesses rare and uncommon facts. For more detail relating to this project you can contact:

Sandra Arnold
(212) 252-6990 (voice)
info@slaveburialproject.org (e-mail)

Call For Papers & Articles

**The Virginia Forum, planned for April 7-8, 2006, at Shenandoah University, encourages proposals for presentations on research on VA prehistory and history. Warren Hofstra, Shenandoah University, and Brent Tarter, Library of VA, are conference chairs. Submit proposals and a brief c.v. by September 15, 2005, to: Warren R. Hofstra, Shenandoah University, 1460 University Dr., Winchester, VA 22601, whofstra@su.edu

**Greenwood Press will publish a two -volume encyclopedia the primary focus of which will be not slavery itself, but rather the assaults worldwide against slavery and the course of its demise. Key entries remain unassigned; if interested, contact Professor McKivigan jmckivig@iupui.edu or Dr. Hinks pphinks1@aol.com.

Conference Alert:

The Maritime Heritage Education Conference will bring formal and informal educators together to promote maritime heritage & related educational partnerships, programs and products. The meeting will be on November 18-20, 2005, at Nauticus: the National Maritime Center in Norfolk, VA. To learn more, visit <http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/mhec/welcome.html>

How do you deal with sensitive issues of slavery and UGRR? Direct your contributions to: Jenny_masur@nps.gov



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The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) was created by Congress in 1998 to honor those who resisted slavery through flight. The Conductor Newsletter was established to inform readers about areas of interest as it relates to the NTF program within the National Capital Region.

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