



Network to Freedom



August 2001

25 Additions to the Network to Freedom

The National Park Service (NPS) salutes efforts to identify, document, interpret, and protect Underground Railroad resources across the United States. The Underground Railroad is a significant heritage related to resistance to slavery and the flight to freedom. Congress mandated the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, or "Network" in 1998, a national system of sites, programs, and facilities with verifiable associations with the Underground Railroad. NPS is pleased to announce that, as a result of the first round of applications received by January 15, 2001, the Network has accepted its first members—10 sites, 10 programs, and 5 facilities.

Membership in the newly formed Network will provide national recognition to well-documented historic sites, programs, and facilities, and will foster coordination among

them. Members will be featured on a Network database on the Program's web site (www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr). NPS will work with Underground Railroad partners to



NPS Coordinators review applications for Network

identify funding for identification, documentation, preservation, and commemoration activities related to the Underground Railroad. Sites, programs, and facilities that have been accepted in the Network will have the privilege to use and display the striking new Network logo.

Carol Murphy, owner of Murphy Orchards (New York) and operator of Under-

ground Railroad interpretive programs, wrote after her acceptance in the Network: *"The truth is, being accepted into the [Network] simply knocks me out. I have both studied and taught Underground Railroad history for the past 21 years,*

since moving to this farm, out of a consuming passion for the history. Receiving endorsement from the [NPS] for the results

of that passion is wonderful and humbling beyond

my descriptive ability....The prestige and promotion of being accepted into the [Network] will enable us to share this exceptional educational resource with far more people, and will ultimately enable us to save and preserve the farmstead, in this time of rapidly disappearing farms."

Members accepted into the Network were identified mostly through the efforts of our Network Partners working to tell the story of the Under-

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Borderlands Conference on the Middle Ohio River Valley

The National Park Service, in partnership with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and Northern Kentucky University's (NKU) Institute for Freedom Studies, sponsored the first in a planned series of regional conferences on the Underground Railroad. The Borderlands Conference, focused on the Middle Ohio River Valley from Marietta to Evansville, was held at the NKU campus on May 18-19, 2001. The goal of conference planners was to bring together researchers from large scale institutions with researchers from local initiatives to share information on the Underground Railroad in the region and address the challenges of collaboration. To facilitate the process, efforts were made to pair institutional researchers with local researchers to work on projects and presentations together.

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Conference Brings Community & Academic Historians Together

Most of the concurrent sessions presented information about specific research on the UGRR in the Borderlands area. A special general session was held Friday afternoon to focus on "Tools and Techniques" for research and interpretation. This session covered such topics as development of an outdoor historical drama, interpreting the UGRR in the context of slavery, archival records for researching UGRR and slavery, and approaches to researching UGRR in a county with little previously known activity.

Perhaps the highlight of the conference, however, was a panel discussion of "institutional" and community historians, moderated by Dr. Milton Sernett, professor of African American Studies at Syracuse University. The discussion centered on three issues suggested by Dr. Sernett:

- How do we sort out the issue of multiple markers from different groups with potentially different perspectives?
- Is there a risk of new mythology of the UGRR emerging due to the revival of interest and is there an antidote?
- How can the Internet be used to do what Siebert could not, and how can we empower local groups to tell their story?

Coincident with the conference, the Institute for Freedom Studies sponsored contests for Visual Arts and Writing for student works that address the theme of the historical resistance to slavery and "the never-ending struggle for human freedom and a fully democratic American society." Works of visual arts were displayed at the conference. Awards were presented to the top three en-

tries in each category at a Friday evening banquet where Robert Callen read his winning poem "Redbud Winter." The winner of the visual arts contest was Carola Bell for "Uncertain Sanctuary."

Conference evaluations indicate that most of the participants found the program worthwhile. Most appreciated the opportunity to network with others working on similar projects. Conference planners are currently discussing follow up plans for a publication of proceedings and future symposia covering different regions.

The truth is, being accepted into the [Network] simply knocks me out. Carol Murphy, operator of interpretive program newly added to the Network to Freedom

First Group of Entries in the Network to Freedom

ground Railroad. Network Partners are local, grassroots organizations or individuals that have submitted a request to work cooperatively and collaboratively with the NPS program to preserve, commemorate, and educate the public about the Underground Railroad. The Net-

work Partners can often be cross-referenced to members accepted into the Network. The following individuals have requested to become, and been accepted as the first Network Partners: Lawrence Walker (NJ), G. Galin Berrier (IA), and Gary L. Knepp (OH). We encourage eligible Under-

ground Railroad sites, educational and interpretive programs, and museum and archival facilities to apply. We welcome your participation in the Network.

Site Candidates for Round 2 of the Network to Freedom		
State	Name	City
Connecticut	Andrew Lee/William Lee House	Hanover
District of Columbia	Frederick Douglass National Historic Site	Washington
Illinois	Camp Warren Levis	Godfry
	Dr. Richard Eells House	Quincy
	Kimzey Crossing/Locust Hill	Tamaroa
	Lucius Read House	Byron
	Owen Lovejoy Homestead	Princeton
	Sheldon Peck Homestead	Lombard
Indiana	African Methodist Episcopal Church	Madison
	Eleutherian College	Madison
	Israel Jenkins House—The Elms Station of Farmington	Marion
	Levi Coffin House Historic Site	Fountain City
	Lyman Hoyt House	Madison
Iowa	Hitchcock House	Lewis
	Jordan House	West Des Moines
	Nishnabotna Ferry House	Lewis
	Todd House	Tabor
Kansas	John Brown State Historic Site	Osawatomie
Kentucky	Bracken Baptist Church	Minerva
	Hillcrest Farm	Georgetown
Maryland	President Street Station	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Nathan and Polly Johnson House	New Bedford
	Nelson's Grove	Hopedale
	New Bedford Friends Meeting House (Quaker)	New Bedford
	Ross Homestead	Florence
	Thwing Residence	Hopedale
	Utopian Community House	Hopedale
Michigan	Banks-Dolbeer-Bradley-Foster Farmhouse	Walled Lake
	Birch Lake Cemetery & Quaker Meeting House (CVC UGRR Site Assoc.)	Calvin Township
	Bonine Carriage House (CVC UGRR Site Association)	Calvin Township
	Bonine House (CVC UGRR Site Association)	Calvin Township
	Chain Lake Baptist Church Cemetery (CVC UGRR Site Association)	Calvin Township
	Guy Beckley House	Ann Arbor
	Ramp Town (CVC UGRR Site Association)	Calvin Township
	Stephen Bogue House Marker (CVC UGRR Site Association)	Calvin Township
Missouri	Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing	St. Louis
Nebraska	John Brown's Cave and Historical Village	Nebraska City
New Jersey	Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church	Gloucester County
New York	Asa Wing	Parish
	Bristol Hill Church (First Congregational Church and Society of Volney)	Fulton
	Buckout-Jones Building	Oswego
	City of Elmira	Elmira
	Daniel and Miriam Pease House	Oswego
	Edwin W. Clarke House	Oswego
	Gerritt Smith Estate	Peterboro
	John B. and Lydia Edwards House	Oswego
	John and Harriet McKenzie House	
	Hamilton and Rhoda Littlefield House	Oswego
	Nathan and Clarissa Green House	Oswego
	Orson Ames House	Mexico

Site Candidates for Round 2 of the Network to Freedom (continued)		
State	Name	City
New York (cont.)	Oswego Market House	Oswego
	Starr Clark Tin Shop	Mexico
	Thomas Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church	Watertown
Ohio	Augustus West Farm	Perry Township
	Bethel Baptist Church	Bethel
	Charles B. Huber Homesite	Williamsburg
	Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church	New Richmond
	Dr. L.T. Pease Homesite	Williamsburg
	Dr. John Rogers Homesite	New Richmond
	Fee Villa	Moscow
	Felicity Wesleyan Church	Felicity
	Homesite of Dr. William E. Thompson	Bethel
	Lindale Baptist Church and Cemetery	Amelia
	Old Settlers Cemetery	Bethel
	Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church Cemetery	Bethel
	Tate Township Cemetery	Bethel
Williamsburg Cemetery	Williamsburg	
Pennsylvania	Independence National Historical Park	Philadelphia
Tennessee	Fort Donelson National Battlefield	Dover
Program Candidates for Round 2 of the Network to Freedom		
California	Footsteps to Freedom Study Tour	Riverside
Georgia	From Africa to Eternity, Inc. (Traveling Exhibit)	Brunswick
Illinois	“American History Live!!!”	Chicago
Indiana	Indiana Freedom Trails	Indianapolis
	“The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana”	New Albany
Kentucky	Kentucky Underground Railroad Research Institute at Georgetown College	Georgetown
Louisiana	River Road African American Museum & Gallery	Gonzales
New York	Richardson-Bates House Museum	Oswego
Ohio	“A Fugitive’s Path—Escape on the Underground Railroad”	Bath
	Clermont County Trail Tour	Batavia
	Clermont County Underground Railroad Public Education Program	Batavia
Facility Candidates for the Network to Freedom		
State	Name	City
Louisiana	River Road African American Museum & Gallery	Gonzales
Maryland	President Street Station/ Baltimore Civil War Museum	Baltimore
Massachusetts	Asa Waters Mansion	Millbury
	Lynn Museum	Lynn
Michigan	Fort St. Joseph Museum	Niles
	Niles Community Library	Niles
New York	H. Lee White Marine Museum	Oswego
	Mexico Museum	Mexico
	Oswego School District Public Library	Oswego
	Richardson-Bates House Museum	Oswego

2nd Round of Network Applications

July 15, 2001, marked the deadline for the second round of applications to the Network to Freedom. NPS received 90 applications, including 69 sites, 11 programs, and 10 facilities. Applications currently under consideration are listed in this newsletter. Further information will be posted on the Program's web site at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr>>, or may be obtained by calling 402-221-3749 or writing to National UGRR Coordinator, NPS, 1709 Jackson Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102.

NPS welcomes public comments on the sites, programs, and facilities under consideration. Please submit them in writing by September 14, to the address above or send via e-mail to <diane_miller@nps.gov>.

Applications will be presented in a review meeting of NPS regional coordinators on September 20, 2001, in at the Old Courthouse, St. Louis, Missouri, from 8 to 5. The public is invited to attend. The committee will vote on whether or not to recommend acceptance of each application for the Network.

Programs Accepted in the Network to Freedom		
State	Name	City
California	Meet Mary Pleasant (a dramatic Chautauqua), Oh Freedom (a musical Chautauqua)	San Francisco
	Reclaiming the Past: Juneteenth Celebration	Folsom
Maryland	The Underground Railroad Experience in Maryland	Rockville
Massachusetts	"An Impressive Lesson for My Children"	Lexington
New York	Murphy Orchards	Burt
Ohio	A Forge for Freedom	Ripley
	Voices of Freedom	Cincinnati
	The Underground Railroad & Its Connection to the Ohio River	Flushing
Texas	Blazing Trails to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Texas	Houston
Wisconsin	Milton House Museum (tour)	Milton

Facilities Accepted in the Network to Freedom		
State	Name	City
Kansas	Clinton Lake Museum	Overbrook
	Watkins Community Museum of History	Lawrence
Maryland	Catoctin Center for Regional Studies	Frederick
	Maryland State Archives	Annapolis
Wisconsin	Racine Heritage Museum	Racine

The announcement of new selections for the Network will be made at a special pub-

lic event at Minute Man National Historical Park on September 30, 2001.

New Midwest Regional Coordinator

NPS recently hired James Hill as the coordinator for the Midwest Region. James is an architectural historian who comes to the Network to Freedom program from working on the inventory of NPS-owned historic resources in the Midwest. James has extensive experience in historic preservation. He has an MA in History (University

of South Carolina) with an area of expertise in Southern History (Colonial through Reconstruction). He also has 2 years toward a PhD in Agricultural History and Rural Studies, and an MLA in Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University. Former Midwest Region coordinator Oloye Adeyemon will be working on an oral history

project for the NPS at Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka and will continue to work on Underground Railroad research. Best of luck and much appreciation to Oloye for his work over the past year and welcome to James.

James may be reached at 402-221-3413 or at james_hill@nps.gov.

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 MIDWEST REGION
 1709 JACKSON STREET
 OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102-2571

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
 PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



NATIONAL
 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
 NETWORK TO FREEDOM

Sites Accepted in the Network to Freedom

State	Name	City
Georgia	Fort Pulaski National Monument	Savannah
Kansas	Free State Capitol	Topeka
Mas- sachusetts	Jackson Homestead	Newton
	William Ingersoll Bowditch House	Brookline
	Tappan-Philbrick House	Brookline
	The Wayside	Lexington
Mississippi	Forks of the Road Enslavement Market Terminus/USCT Barracks	Natchez
Ohio	John P. Parker Historic Site	Ripley
Vermont	Rokeby Museum	Ferrisburg
Wisconsin	Milton House Museum	Milton