



THE CONDUCTOR

(Spring 2009 – No. 25)



UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD
NETWORK TO FREEDOM

New NCR Network to Freedom Members

Washington, DC

Old City Hall, DC Courthouse was the site of the Drayton and Sayres trials, charging the captains with slave theft, after the attempted escape on the *Pearl*.

Maryland

Mount Calvert, an archeological park in Prince George's County, is on the Network to Freedom because planters Samuel Berry and John Brookes advertised for the return or capture of several runaways from slavery on their estate.

NATIONAL

UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE

“Freedom Trails at the Crossroads,” the Third Annual Underground Railroad (UGRR) conference will be Wednesday, September 16, to Saturday, September 19, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The first and last days – Wednesday and Saturday -- will feature tours to historic UGRR sites in Indiana. There are exciting names on the preliminary program. Larry Gara author of The Liberty Line: The Legend of the Underground Railroad, started the revival of UGRR history when he published in 1961. He will be commentator on a panel discussing his work. Papers will address UGRR myths such as quilt codes and the song, “Follow the Drinking Gourd.” Both a workshop and the dinner entertainment will highlight reenactments

of Underground Railroad history. Other panels will focus on archeology of the UGRR and the slave trade database. To register see <http://www.ugrfriends.org>.

NEXT NOMINATION REVIEW TO BE HELD IN LEESBURG

On Wednesday, August 26, 2009, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (Network to Freedom) committee will meet in Leesburg, Virginia, at the Thomas Balch Library at 9:00 am to review the nominations received by the committee by July 15. The meeting will offer a chance to meet the national and regional managers of the Network to Freedom, and to understand the criteria used in the review. Those who attend can take the opportunity to visit, not only the library, but also other Network members – Oatlands and the Leesburg Courthouse or to take the self-guided African American walking tour of Leesburg.

OLD NEWS BUT GOOD NEWS

- In May 2008 scholar Marcus Rediker won the George Washington Book Prize for The Slave Ship: A Human History. The award was presented at Mount Vernon, sponsored by Washington College, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Reviewers commented that, "Rediker shares one quality with the demographers who study the slave trade, he respects evidence and uses it in the telling of slave history. But it is not the numbers of people that interest him (though he reports the horrifying figures demographers give on the extent of the trade), it is the experience of these people." Rediker himself describes his book as 'painful'; it must have been as painful to write as to read.
- The Freedmen and Southern Society Project, University of Maryland, (College Park), was awarded \$171,880 by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to support the Freedom History project, a series of volumes on the social history of emancipation of slaves in the United States. The project headed by Ira Berlin and Leslie Rowland has already produced volumes Free at Last: A Documentary History of Slavery, Freedom, and the Civil War and Families and Freedom: A Documentary History of African-American Kinship in the Civil War Era.

DID YOU KNOW? ESCAPES OCCURRED THROUGH NEGLIGENCE



- **By railroad** – *Northern Central Railway Co. v. Scholl* (1860) for value of bondsman lost by transportation in railroad cars; the runaway was last seen at his master's home in Frederick County and next seen in Hanover, Pennsylvania, with two other runaways. One was buying a ticket for Little York, PA. Decided in favor of plaintiff for \$813.
- **From jail** -- *Burley v. Griffith* (1836) Luke Griffith, master of William Lee, confined

bondsman to jail in fear he would leave Virginia. The sheriff let him escape jail. Decision: he was negligent for doing so and not immediately pursuing him.

- **By steamer** – *State v. Baltimore and Susquehanna Steam Co.* (1859) was to recover fine under law as steamer *Lancaster* was at Annapessix River to carry passengers to and from Baltimore for a camp meeting. On return bondsman Sam was seen on board. The ship’s charterer sold a ticket to a black who did not travel going to the meeting on the ship. Decision: Liability may be enforced.
- **By sailing ship** -- *Slacum v. Smith* (1818) – Jane Slacum hired to Amos Smith a bondsman to serve as a seaman on brig *Virginia* traveling from Alexandria to Lisbon and back to a US port. The conflict was over the first month’s wages of the runaway who jumped ship in New York. Decision: Wages not forfeited.

Information from Helen Catterall, Judicial Cases concerning American Slavery and the Negro, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1936, vol. I & IV.

REGIONAL



MARYLAND GETS RECOVERY MONEY

One million dollars in recovery money went to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge for a trail to connect the Harriet Tubman Discovery Center currently planned for the Eastern Shore of Maryland with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National parks proposed in a bill pending before Congress.

SAVE THE DATE

- July 15-16, Annual Meeting, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Gettysburg, PA
- October 23-24, 2009, “Abolitionism in Black and White: The Antislavery Community of Boston and Cambridge” see www.abolitionisminblackandwhite.com



FRED MORSELL PERFORMS IN NCR

Fred Morsell is the compelling interpreter of Frederick Douglass. He knows Douglass’ biography and speeches intimately. On May 30, the National Parks Conservation Association sponsored a performance of Frederick Douglass’ 1878 speech to faculty and students at Storer College. The event was part of the Civil War sesquicentennial celebration.



Let's compare The Dictionary of American Negro Biography (New York: Norton, 1982) edited by Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, to the one-volume version of African American Lives (Oxford, Oxford, 2004). The breadth of African American Lives is greater, given that there will be an African American Biographical Database on ProQuest bringing together over 40,000 entries and a multi-volume series. More recent biographies have been added, and the database allows flexibility to add more. The bibliography is updated. The Dictionary, however, often provides, not only a bibliography and scholarly note on sources, but where the individual's papers, if any, are located. The authors of many of the entries are classic historians such as Benjamin Quarles, Kenneth Porter, Dorothy Porter, and Gunther Schuller. When in doubt, consult both reference

“Fifty Dollars Reward, Ran-away...a Negro named Godfrey...”

In 1807, Godfrey, a bondsman owned by Richard Bland Lee of Sully, in Chantilly, Virginia, ran away. Although Mr. Lee advertised for the return of Godfrey in the *Alexandria Advertiser*, the *Federal Gazette*, the *Herald* and the *Virginia Gazette*, there is no mention of Godfrey returning.

The runaway ad provides details on Godfrey's appearance looked, and even

works. For women, also check Black Women in America, edited by Darlene Clark Hine, Elsa Barkley Brown, and Rosalyn Terborg-Penn (Indiana University, Bloomington, 1993) and Notable American Women, edited by Edward T. James (Belknap, Cambridge, 1971).

Cassandra Pybus, Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and Their Global Quest for Liberty (Beacon Press, Boston, 2006). This book by an Australian scholar is of interest for two reasons. It refers to the American Revolution, an era when enslaved Africans and African Americans sought freedom by fleeing to the British army and navy, an era of Underground Railroad activity much neglected. Second, it refers to use of the waterways in the Chesapeake Bay a topic deserving a book equivalent to The Waterman's Song: Slavery and Freedom in Maritime North Carolina by David S. Cecelski. Pybus' profiles range from the Chesapeake to Sierra Leone, London, and Nova Scotia, highlighting little known stories such as that of Harry Washington of Mount Vernon. (Reviewed by J. Masur)

the fact that the mule he rode had been “shod before.” With this ad and the funds procured through the Sully Foundation Ltd., at Sully Historic Site, a unit of the Fairfax County Park Authority, an artist has been selected to paint a 16x20 inch half figure of Godfrey. Using a male model and the 1807 advertisement, Grace Kettell with the Lorton Arts Foundation/Workhouse Center has been commissioned to do this portrait.

With this project, we can imagine what Godfrey looked like and how he was

dressed, giving a face to a man who may have achieved his freedom via the Underground Railroad. It helps remind people today of his existence over two

hundred years ago, and of all slaves who ran away to freedom.

November 6, 1869

THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Information Wanted, of my son John Maybanks, born in Columbia, SC, with his mother, Charlotte Maybanks, was sold to Phillip Killyon, and brought to Augusta Co., Virginia, six years before the war. When last seen was in 1863, between Fairfax C.H.

[courthouse] and Centreville. He was with the 25th NY Regiment, whose time had expired, and they were on their way home. Any information thankfully received.

Address, LOUIS MOTAIR, 1013 Lombard St., Philadelphia.

FYI

- Alexandria Special Collections on June 29 will go on curtailed hours, Mon. 9-9, Wed. 9-6, Fri. 9-6 and first Sat. of month 9-5 (if not holiday).
- Thanks to Sally Griffin, the nominations of all NCR park members of the Network to Freedom are posted on the NCR intranet. They are not yet publicly available.
- The Library of Congress and the Foundation Center have released the second edition of a web-based fundraising guide to help preservationists. The guide, "Foundation Grants for Preservation in Libraries, Archives and Museums," is freely downloadable at www.loc.gov/preserv/foundtn-grants.html.
- The Federal Grants and Loans Catalog is available. This publication contains more than 5000 financial subsidies, scholarships, grants and loans. CD version: \$69.95; Printed version: \$149.95; to order call: 450-761-0037.



NCR PEOPLE

- *Retirements:* Frank Faragasso, Historian NACE; Darwina Neal, Chief, Cultural Resources.
- *Appointment:* Robert Stanton as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, He has been a friend of the Network to Freedom while national Director of NPS and Regional Director of NCR.

Harriet Tubman Quiz

1. She made 80 trips into MD for rescues of enslaved African Americans. T/F
2. Buildings at her birthplace are still standing. T/F
3. She lived in Cape May, NJ, and Canada. T/F
4. She has direct descendants. T/F
5. Her final home and resting place is in Auburn, NY T/F
6. She served as a Civil War nurse and spy, spending time at Ft. Monroe and in Florida. T/F
7. She is better known to school children than any other Underground Railroad figure T/F
8. Harriet Tubman began life as Araminta Ross. T/F
9. There was a gap of more than 50 years between adult biographies of Harriet Tubman. T/F
10. Harriet Tubman participated in John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. T/F

Answers may be found in Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman Portrait of an American Hero (New York, Ballantine Books, 2004) by Kate Larson.

OPPORTUNITIES

- *CALL FOR PAPERS*: The Society of Civil War Historians Conference, June 17-19, 2010, Richmond. Panel or individual proposals. Deadline: September 15, 2009. Proposals to Dr. William Blair, Dir., Richards Civil War Era Ctr., PA State Univ., 108 Weaver Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. (814) 863-0151 or RichardsCenter@psu.edu.
- *CALL FOR PAPERS*: The Virginia Forum, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, April 15-17, 2010. Submit proposals for papers or panels, etc. See www.virginiaforum.org. Send proposals and vita to deborahalee@gmail.com.
- *CALL FOR PAPERS*: Gender, Class, Race, and Ethnicity in Abolitionism on the Underground Railroad UGRR Conference, Feb. 26-28, 2010, NY Capital Region. Deadline: Oct. 1. <http://www.ugrworkshop.com/call.pdf>
- *CALL FOR ARTICLES*: Specialists on American slave material life. Honorarium. CV and possible topics to worldofaslave@gmail.com
- *SPEAKERS AVAILABLE*:
 - MD Humanities Council for free public programs state-wide, e.g., Gwendolyn Briley-Strand on life of Harriet Tubman and associated sites. Contact <http://www.mdhc.org/programs/speakers-bureau>
 - Montgomery Co. Historical Society, e.g., Maude McGovern on Josiah Henson and Ann Maria Weems. Available to organizations, metropolitan D.C. Call Clarence Hickey (301) 340-2825.
- *GRANTS*: The National Trust's \$15,000 Partnership-in-Scholarship Grants (4) for collaboration between African American Historic sites and college scholars. No match. Awards in fall 2009 to sustain current or new audiences or to enhance interpretation of challenging topics. Applications available in July. See <http://historicsites.files.wordpress.com/2009/04/aahpi-partnership-grant-guidelines-2009.pdf>
- Grants Workshop: DC Humanities Council, 925 U St. NW, DC Metro (U St/Cardozo). Free, July 20, 2009 12-1:30 PM. Other sites <http://www.wdchumanities.org>

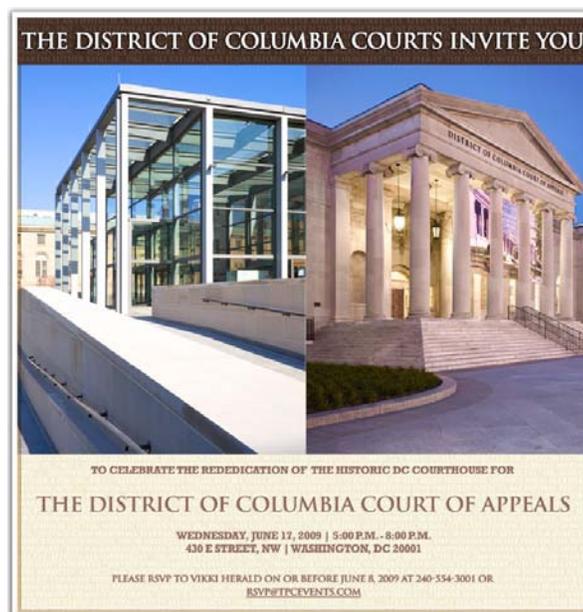
- *READING GROUP*: NPS/American University Public History group meets for the second time, reading Lois and James Horton's Slavery and Public History, July 13, 2009 from 12pm to 2pm, Main Interior Library. Jennifer_epstein@nps.gov
- *TOUR*: Tickets to an Elizabeth Keckly tour are available at Ford's Theatre for \$12. Call 202-397-SEAT to order. Join Elizabeth Keckly as she tells the story of her friendship with Abraham Lincoln's family and of her efforts to help freedom seekers.

SUCCESSFUL USE OF JUNIOR RANGER BOOKLET BY NETWORK MEMBER

Hortense Prout was a freedom seeker who unsuccessfully tried to hide, disguised, in an army encampment in DC. She was freed later as a result of the DC Emancipation Act in April 1862. The Hortense Prout Walking Tour for Children, back in February, was done in two parts. Because of the cold weather, I met with the children one afternoon in their afterschool classroom to talk to them about slavery in the Adams-Morgan neighborhood. We discussed who among them, if enslaved, would have been brave enough to try to run to freedom. A week later, we walked to Kalorama Park where I told the story of John Little the master of the enslaved Prout family. We talked about Hortense's decision to try to escape slavery, and why somebody would want to be free. The children were excited.

I gave out Junior Ranger booklets. The dozen or so kids, who were elementary school students, already knew about Harriet Tubman, whose picture they saw in the booklet. They told me all about her. Everybody took the Underground Railroad conductor pledget. We've also had a number of teachers of young children on the walking tours with us, who were glad to receive the booklet.

Mary Belcher, Historian, Hortense Prout Tour



Rededication of the Old City Hall (DC)

National Park Service website: www.nps.gov

National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive , SW
Washington, D.C. 20242



The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) was created by Congress in 1998 to honor those who resisted slavery through flight. *The Conductor* was established to inform readers about Underground Railroad (UGRR) history and resource within the National Capital Region. It describes the activities of NTF.

www.cr.nps.gov/uqrr



NPS readers can find past issues of *The Conductor* at “The Conductor Archives”

<http://www.ncr.nps.gov/>



Jenny Masur, Editor
Network to Freedom Manager,
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Comments? Please send to: Jenny_Masur@nps.gov
National Park Service website: www.nps.gov