2017 National Underground Railroad Conference Schedule

On the Edge of Freedom: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in the Borderlands

Host hotel: Comfort Inn, Cambridge, Maryland
Dates: May 18-21, 2017

Thursday, May 18

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Workshops to be held at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center</th>
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<td>$25 for one; $35 for two (morning and afternoon) lunch included</td>
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10:00-12:00 pm

**Workshop 1:** An Interactive Workshop on Poetic Imagination and History  
**BRIEF EVIDENCE OF HEAVEN: POEMS FROM THE LIFE OF ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS**  
Michelle Keita

**Workshop 2:** How to Interpret Slavery Workshop  
Akua Anansesemfo

1:00-3:00 pm

**Workshop 3:** Tubman and the New Freedom  
Lacresha Berry

**Workshop 4:** Bridging Past to Present: The Borderland Community of Niagara Falls During the Underground Railroad  
Ally Spongr, Sara Capen, Marci Ross

Or

**Field Session/Tour:** “In the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Dorchester County is where I was born.”

11:00 am to 4:00 pm $40

Stops: Stanley Institute, New Revived United Methodist Church, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, Bucktown Village Store

Other sites: Church Creek, Woolford, Jacob Jackson Site, Stewart’s Canal, Malone Church, Blackwater River, Brodess Farm,

Visit the land of Harriet Tubman’s birth, where she spent her formative years and visit the newly opened Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. Tubman biographer Kate Larson will lead this tour to explore the communities important to Harriet Tubman’s early life on the Eastern Shore. View the landscape where Tubman worked, learning outdoor skills from her father Ben Ross, and where she returned to rescue family and friends. Learn about the complex social environment of this region and the relationship between enslaved and free blacks. Tour includes lunch.
2:00-5:30 pm  Conference registration and Exhibit Hall set-up

6:30-8:30 pm  Opening reception, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

Friday, May 19

8:00-5:30 pm  Conference registration
8:00-5:00 pm  Exhibit Hall
8:00-9:00 am  Continental breakfast
9:00-9:15 am  Opening Session  (Dignitaries, Welcomes)

9:15-10:15 am  Plenary Panel:  WGN’s  *Underground*
Creators Misha Green and Joe Pokaski; Harriet Tubman actress Aisha Hinds

10:30-12:00 pm  Concurrent Session 1:  Creators of the Underground Railroad, 1835-1865
Moderator:  Chris Bonner
Panelists:
1.  Graham Hodges, Harriet Tubman in Cape May, New Jersey:  The Formative Years
2.  Kate Masur, African American Spies in the Maryland-Virginia Borderland during the Civil War
3.  Phillip Troutman, Chronicles of Kidnapping in New York:  Elizur Wright at the Borderlands of Slavery
Commentator:  Chris Bonner

Concurrent Session 2:  “Eastern shore of Maryland Dorchester County is where I was born”:  Harriet Tubman’s Maryland
Moderator:  Maya Davis
Panelists:
1.  H. Eliot Foulds and Jennifer Hanna, Piecing and Patchwork: Deciphering the Jacob Jackson Landscape
2.  Phillip Hesser, "Somewhat in the Condition of Freemen": Hiring Out and Harriet Tubman's Borderlands of Freedom

12:15-1:15 pm  Lunch

1:30 – 2:45 pm  Networking/Discussion groups
* Modern, International Perspectives on Harriet Tubman
  Lisbeth Gronlund and Kimerly Cornish
* Literature and the Underground Railroad
  Barbara Lockhart and Jacqueline Wood
* Churches and Schools in the Freedom Struggle in Maryland
  Kalila Barrett-Gaines and Franklin Robinson
* Freedom Seekers and Changes in Time and Space
  Larry McClellan and Cheryl LaRoche
3:00 – 4:30 pm

**Concurrent session 3: Trade, Travel, and Commerce in the South-Central Pennsylvania Underground Railroad**
Moderator: Gail Tomlinson
Panelists:
1. Darlene Colon, Lydia Hamilton Smith
2. Kelly Summerford, William C. Goodridge

**Concurrent Session 4: History on the Borderlands: Harriet Tubman and Popular Culture**
Moderator: Deanda Johnson
Panelists:
1. Janell Hobson, Cultural Currency and the “Value” of Harriet Tubman
2. Kristen Oertel, Is Harriet Tubman Funny? History and Pop Culture Humor
3. Aisha Hinds

**Concurrent Session 5: Forging Freedom on the Unwelcoming Landscapes of Slavery’s Borderlands**
Moderator: Rosemary Sadlier
Panelists:
1. Valerie Martin, Racial Slavery and Gendered Power in Early Quebec Newspapers: Fugitive, Slave, and Slave Sale Notices in the St. Lawrence Valley
2. Marcus P. Nevius, “By whom liberated or born free?”: Slave Hire and Petit Marronage in Southside Virginia during the Antebellum Era
3. Gordon S. Barker, To Migrate or Sojourn North of Slavery?: Responding to Limited Black Freedom on Erie’s Faraway Shore

6:30 - 8:30 pm
Banquet (Dorchester Center for the Arts)
Performance: Marcus Shelby
Master of Ceremonies: Robert G. Stanton

**Saturday, May 20**

8:00 am Conference registration
7:30 am – 4:30 pm Exhibit Hall
7:30 – 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
8:30 - 10:00 am **Concurrent Session 6: Freedom on My Mind: The Psychological Burden of Slavery**
Moderator: Leigh Ryan
Panelists:
2. Jeanne Pirtle, The Borderlands of Fear
3. Beryl Hunter, Constructing an Ideal: Resistance and Expediency in the Lower Mississippi Delta
Concurrent Session 7: Enslavement and Freedom on International Borderlands
Moderator: Bronwen Sounders
Panelists:
1. Maria Diaz, The Promise of Freedom: The Complicated Sanctuary of Samana, Dominican Republic (cancelled due to family emergency)
3. Meredith Hardy, Engaging the Present by Uncovering the Past—Community Archeology and the Legacy of Enslavement, Resistance, and Emancipation at Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

Concurrent session 8: On the Edge of Freedom: African American Abolitionist Activists
Moderator: Nikki Taylor
Panelists:
1. Mary Liz Stewart, Stephen Myers on the Borderland of Activism
2. Dean Herrin, Crossing the Line to Freedom: The Story of Basil Dorsey
3. Michele Sullivan, African American Abolitionists in Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania

10:15 – 11:45 am

Concurrent Session 9: The Promises and Risks of the Borderlands
Moderator: Shelley Stokes-Hammond
Panelists:
1. David McBride, Runaways, Contrabands or Both? Activities and Implications of Contraband Camps and Settlements to the Underground Railroad
2. Deanda Johnson, Slave Stampedes: A Borderland Phenomenon
3. Bridget Striker, Rising Sun and Rabbit Hash: A Tale of Two Diametrically Opposed Sister Communities on the Ohio River Borderlands

Concurrent Session 10: Liberation and the Law: Slavery and Freedom
Moderator: Kalila Barrett-Gaines
Panelists:
2. Margo Williams, Miles Lassiter: Straddling the Lines Between Slave and Free, Black and White
3. Terrence Franklin, The Last Will of Lucy Sutton: One Family’s Legal Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom
Concurrent Session 11: Kidnapped!
Moderator: Terry Neild
Panelists:
1. Iris Barnes, Sacrificing Margaret Morgan: Slavery and Freedom through the lens of Prigg v Pennsylvania, a Pivotal Reverse Underground Railroad Event
2. Milt Diggins, Slave Catching and Kidnapping in the Borderlands
3. Robin Krawitz, The Remarkable Story of Aaron Cooper: Understanding the Landscape of Kidnapping in Delaware through a Suit for Freedom Filed in Natchez, Mississippi

12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:15 pm - 2:15 pm Keynote Address: The Underground Railroad in the Making of American Abolition
Manisha Sinha

2:30 – 4:00 pm Concurrent Session 12: Movement to Freedom: Migration, Networking, and Abolition
Moderator: Diane Miller
Panelists:
1. Deborah Lee, Underground Railroad Migration from the Middle Potomac Region of Virginia and Maryland
2. Jesse Olsavsky, “We are all Bound Together”: Women, Vigilance Committees, and the Making of Abolitionism without Borders, 1835-1859
3. Katherine Delavan, Ohio Borderlands: The Abolitionist Network from the Ohio River to Lake Erie

Concurrent Session 13: The Promise of Canada?: The Reality of Freedom
Moderator: Richard Dana
Panelists:
1. Deidre McCorkindale, “It is not a British Feeling”: Anti-Black Racism in Kent County
2. Donna King, Freedom in America: Myth or Reality in Canada?
3. Veta Tucker, Blacks Navigating Freedom in the Detroit River Borderland

Concurrent Session 14: In it Together: UGRR Networks at Work
Moderator: Deirdre Sinnott
Panelists:
1. Don Papson, Tracking Harriet Tubman’s Network from Maryland to Canada West
2. Michael Boston, Platt H. Skinner, Abolitionist and Teacher of Deaf, Blind and Mute Black Children

4:15 – 5:00 pm Closing Session: Expressions of the American Civil Rights Movement: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
Panelists:
Sunday, May 21

7:30 - 8:00 am  Conference tour registration and check-in

**Field Session/Tour:  - In the Shadow of Freedom on the Delmarva**

8:30 to 5:00 pm; **$50**

Stops:  Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Dover Green, Delaware Old State House

Other Sites:  Faith Community United Methodist Church, Jacob and Hannah Leverton House, Linchester Mill, Jonestown, Samuel D. Burris marker

Isolated from the mainland for centuries, the Delmarva Peninsula (containing Delaware and the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia) constitutes a distinctive region with a strong southern culture. Explore this Upper South region and learn about slavery and freedom in the borderlands. This tour will follow the Harriet Tubman byway into Caroline County, Maryland, and Delaware, highlighting the story of the Dover Eight who used information from Harriet Tubman in their dramatic escape. In the Poplar Neck area, learn the story of the African American community of which Harriet Tubman's parents, Ben and Rit Ross were a part and the nearby Quaker community. Have lunch in Denton, Maryland

The Delaware portion of the tour will include the “Tales of Slavery and Freedom Walking Tour” on the Dover Green where participants will learn about Delaware’s complicated positions regarding freedom and slavery, and its role as a border state during the Civil War. Learn the story of the brave group of freedom seekers known as the Dover Eight and their daring escape from the Dover Jail. Hear about famous African-American Richard Allen and his connections to the Golden Fleece Tavern. In the Old State House, the “Courage and Freedom Tour” will focus on three compelling stories of courageous Delawareans whose fight for freedom and equality began at the Old State House, including Samuel D. Burris.