



Network to Freedom



In Memoriam, the Network to Freedom Loses a Friend

*I am not going to die,
I'm going home like a shooting star.*

—Sojourner Truth



Dr. Barbara Woods joins Guy Washington, Pacific West Regional Coordinator, at the *Amistad* Exhibit in Buffalo, New York, September 2003, while on a break from a strategic planning meeting with Network to Freedom staff and partners.

The Network to Freedom mourns the regretful passing of our friend and supporter, Dr. Barbara Woods, of St. Louis, Missouri. She died on December 23, 2004, at the age of 59, following a long fight with cancer. Dr. Woods was involved with the Network to Freedom from the beginning, participating in numerous meetings and discussions to offer her input on the formulation and operation of the program. She was also part of the planning effort for the September 2000 event to launch

the Network to Freedom logo and website. Her insights were particularly valued by the National Park Service staff.

Dr. Woods gave freely of her time and wisdom in supporting the work of the Network to Freedom and advancing the cause of educating the public about the Underground Railroad. Her passion seemed to have been borne of her strong beliefs that acceptance and common understanding could exist among all people,

through communication and the courage to face uncomfortable situations. Dr. Woods always looked for the commonality among people while valuing their unique contributions.

Recognizing the important work that the Network to Freedom was advancing and the challenges faced by the program, Dr. Woods developed a vision to establish a nationwide Friends group to support this effort. She organized

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2005 Network to Freedom Grant Recipients

State	Listing Name	Project Name	Amount
Illinois	Dr. Richard Eells House	1851 Addition Improvement	\$25,000
Indiana	Georgetown Historic District	Madison UGRR Exhibit	\$6,000
Indiana	Historic Eleutherian College	Restoration of Rotted Floor Joist	\$10,000
Indiana	“The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana”	Phase II of Ordinary People, Extraordinary Courage	\$21,500
Kansas	Constitution Hall--Topeka	Restoration & Repair of West Elevation Walls	\$25,000
Maryland	Dorchester County Courthouse	Interpretive Signage	\$12,000
Maryland	Southern Maryland Studies Center	Hidden Identities: Southern Maryland Slaves & US Colored Troops at Camp Stanton	\$6,861
Massachusetts	Discovering New Bedford’s UGRR History	Expanding New Bedford’s UGRR Program through research & brochure	\$15,000
Nebraska	Mayhew Cabin	Walls, Porch, & Interior Rehabilitation	\$21,275
<i>New York</i>	<i>Bristol Hill Church (pending)</i>	<i>Structural Repairs</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
New York	Buckhout-Jones Building	Oswego Main Street UGRR Interpretive Signs	\$2,000
<i>New York</i>	<i>Oswego School District Public Library (pending)</i>	<i>Building Stabilization & Exterior Preservation</i>	<i>\$19,860</i>
Ohio	Clermont County UGRR Public Education Program	Underground Railroad Kiosk	\$19,000
Ohio	Experience the Underground Railroad	Conduct Primary Research to Support Program	\$4,065
Ohio	John Rankin House	Rankin House Archeological Survey	\$25,000
Pennsylvania	Historical Society of Pennsylvania	Contextualizing the UGRR: Slavery, Abolition, & Freedom in the HSP Collection	\$22,650
Pennsylvania	Johnson House	Roof Stabilization and Preservation	\$25,000
Pennsylvania	Zercher’s Hotel	Christiana UGRR Center	\$10,589

The Network to Freedom program is pleased to announce the grants shown above. These projects were selected from among 38 applications in a very competitive pool of proposals. More than \$640,000 in projects were submitted, but only \$295,800 was available for the grants in FY 2005.

The variety of projects described in

the grant proposals reflect the creativity of the many Network to Freedom members in preserving and telling the story of the Underground Railroad. Several projects were to stabilize and preserve endangered historic buildings—such as Eleutherian College (one of the National Trust for Historic Places 11 Most Endangered places in the entire country), Constitution Hall-

Topeka, Mayhew Cabin, and the Oswego School District Public Library. Other projects focused on expanding research in support of site interpretation or to improve programs—such as with archeological survey at John Rankin House or “Discovering New Bedford’s UGRR History” (a cooperative project among 3 local partners).

Moncure Conway, a Son of the South, Honored for Aiding Freedom Seekers

By Norman Schools, Conway House owner

Moncure D. Conway, a radical abolitionist from the South, was exiled even by his closest kin who were one of the leading and prominent aristocratic families of old Virginia. In 1862 he led a large group of freedom seekers, people enslaved by his family, to safety and resettlement in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. referred to him as among the “dirty-lined friends of progress... Virginia-born, with seventeen secesh cousins, fathers, and other relatives...”

Moncure’s father owned more than fifty slaves and the family treated them with exceptional kindness. Years later one would write, “Not only was she your mother but she was a mother to all—both white and colored.” Conway’s father was the most gentlest and caring individual concerning their welfare. However, Moncure Conway knew that these slaves wanted to be free when:

The flowers bursting into bloom whispered “Break thy bonds,” and the flying cloud said “Be free!” The Strain was taken up by the winds, I heard it in the ebb and flow of the tide, and to it moved the stars in their courses.

-----M. D. Conway

Conway also knew that those who embraced slavery were also slaves in themselves to that institution. Conway House portrays this as Moncure, Daniel, and Conway were the names of three of the region’s most formidable families, with relations by birth to the Harrisons, the Taylors, the Madisons, the Lees, collaterally through two lines to George Washington, a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, an attorney general of Virginia, a member of the state legislature—with all this prestige and distinguished privilege, yet the Conway family had to deal with the moral question of slavery. Now, civil war forced the issue and divided the family. Moncure Conway would later write, “The human mind, inspired by the heart, shapes in the future an

ideal that survives the decay of dogmas.”

Conway House is located in Falmouth, Stafford County, Virginia, an old Colonial port town on the Rappahannock River, slightly upstream, and opposite the city of Fredericksburg. During the Civil War the area including Conway House witnessed much devastation and several major battles. Today Conway House is a Virginia State Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, included in the Network to Freedom and has been nominated as a National Landmark.

On August 23, 2004, Conway was honored by a Virginia State Historical Highway Marker. Professor James Bryant remarked, “Recognizing a man rejected by



old Confederate Stafford is a milestone... in the past, Virginia honored those who fought for the Confederacy. Finally, in the 21st century, Virginia is recognizing another perspective of the war.” The preceding year, on June 13, 2003, the state of Ohio honored Conway and the Conway Colony in Yellow Springs with a historical state marker. These markers were dedicated with recognition by the Governors of Ohio and Virginia respectively.

A newspaper account of the Aug. 23, 2004 event related, “Last week, for the first time, a descendant from the Conway Colony came to Stafford.” In closing the dedication, Professor John d’Entremont

remarked, “Conway knew what, at their best, Melville, and Steinbeck, and Kerouac knew—that Americans live up to their destiny not by staying close to home (whether literally or figuratively) but by leaving it, by venturing, by going to sea, or on the road. Walt Whitman (whom Conway admired and helped) said America is really the greatest poem.

“How do you put that life on a sign? You don’t, but it’s OK because such a sign is really more about the generation that creates it. The sign says a little about Conway, but a lot about us. It says, first, that we have committed ourselves to expanding the cast of characters in the historical pageant of which we are a part. We will never again be so narrow in our definition of ‘Virginian or Southerner.’ In Conway’s time, we now acknowledge, Virginians came in different colors, degrees of Freedom, religion and political views—and to us, now, they all matter.

“And the sign says, finally, that we Virginians honor one who went away, who had, once to go away—because we honor his principals, his values, his quest, we recognize, more than many of his contemporaries in the region could, the virtue of those values, the power of those principals. The sign reflects what we consider important, what we value. It reflects us, and it challenges us... Conway knew that journeys come in many forms. Tonight we affirm that we, too, know this, as we write a new page in the story and journey of Virginia.”

In 2005, a new page is being written in the history of the Moncure Conway House as the Moncure Conway Foundation is created. Many goals are already being envisioned by this organization including site interpretation. The descendants of the Conway Colony in Yellow Springs, Ohio have expressed their sincere desire to make a spiritual journey by retracing the journey of their freedom seeking ancestors, visiting Stafford County and Conway House. The Foundation hopes to make this a reality and share this great humanitarian story with the Nation through a documentary.

Congratulations to the New Network Listings

At a public meeting in Baltimore, Maryland in September, 2004, NPS accepted the following sites, programs, and facilities into the Network to Freedom.

Florida

- Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park [site]

Illinois

- Congregational Church (Jacksonville) [site]
- Old Slave House (reverse UGRR) [site]

Indiana

- Georgetown Historic District [site]
- Tibbets House [site]

Kansas

- Underground Railroad in Douglas County, Kansas [program]
- Quindaro Ruins [site]

Maryland

- Arrest Site of William Chaplin [site]
- Roedown Farm [site]
- Rural Legacy Trail: UGRR Experience [program]

Massachusetts

- Joshua Bowen Smith House [site]

New York

- Matilda Joslyn Gage House [site]
- Onondaga Historical Association Museum & Research Center [facility]

North Carolina

- Pasquotank River [site]

Ohio

- Haines House [site]

Virginia

- Downtown Norfolk Waterfront [site]

West Virginia

- West Virginia State Archives [facility]

Wisconsin

- Caroline Quarles: She's Got a Story to Tell [program]



Network to Freedom coordinators review applications for new sites, programs, and facilities at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, September 2004.

At a public meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana in April 2005, NPS accepted the following sites, programs, and facilities into the Network to Freedom.

California

- "Straight From Tha Underground" [program]

Georgia

- "Mattie, Johnny and Smooth White Stones" [program]

Illinois

- Rocky Fork (boundary expansion) [site]

Indiana

- John Gill and Martha Wilson Craven House [site]

Kentucky

- Fee Land: The Story of Juliet Miles [site]

Maryland

- Dorchester County Courthouse [site]

- Frederick Douglass Freedom & Heritage Trail & Tour of UGRR Sites in the City of Baltimore, MD [program]
- Hampton National Historic Site [site]
- In Their Steps [program]
- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum [site]
- Mount Clare [site]
- Old Jail of St. Mary's County [site]
- Point Lookout State Park [site]
- Port Tobacco Courthouse [site]

Michigan

- Caroline Quarlls: A Family Legacy of Freedom [program]

New York

- Herman and Hannah Phillips House [site]
- Seward House [site]
- Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence [site]

North Carolina

- Orange Street Landing on Cape Fear [site]

Ohio

- Experience the Underground Railroad [program]
- John Rankin House [site]
- Nelson T. Gant Homestead [site]
- Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Monument [site]
- On the Trail to Freedom in Lorain County, Ohio [program]

Pennsylvania

- Kennett Underground Railroad Center
- Quest for Freedom: The UGRR in Philadelphia [program]

Virginia

- Birch Slave Pen [site]

Wisconsin

- A.P. Dutton Warehouse [site]

Georgetown Historic District becomes First in Network to Freedom

The first neighborhood, or historic district, included in the Network to Freedom for the collective involvement of its residents in the Underground Railroad, was the Georgetown area of Madison, Indiana. In the 1840s Georgetown was home to William Anderson, George deBaptiste, Elijah Anderson, Chapman Harris, and other prominent Underground Railroad operatives. A public dedication ceremony and unveiling for the Indiana historical marker to commemorate Georgetown was held on October 30, 2004, in the Windle Auditorium as part of the Cornelius O'Brien/Indiana Main Street conference held in Madison.

The marker reads:

Free blacks settled in Madison as early as 1820. The growing black community began businesses and organized churches and schools in this area, later called Georgetown. Risking their own freedom, some free black residents here actively aided slaves seeking

freedom. A few of these residents had to flee from Madison themselves in the late 1840s. Despite the danger, after the late 1840s some freed blacks in Madison continued to aid freedom seekers. The Underground Railroad refers to a widespread network of diverse people in the nineteenth century who aided slaves escaping to freedom from the southern U.S.



Indiana heritage continues to gain attention by the placement of historic markers throughout the state commemorating significant Indiana people, places, and events. The installation of historical

markers helps communities present, promote, and preserve their rich history for both citizens and visitors. In cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Indiana Freedom Trails, markers for Underground Railroad-related sites include the Indiana Freedom Trails logo. A searchable database on the Internet, brings this history to a worldwide audience. <http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/ihb/ugrr/index.html>

Historic Madison, Inc., which owns the African Methodist Episcopal Church building in Georgetown, has received almost \$460,000 in grants to restore the building and develop a museum to commemorate the Underground Railroad history of the community. The recently awarded \$6000 Network to Freedom grant will contribute to the completion and success of this project.

Network to Freedom Connecting Story: “The Pearl”

In 1848, one of the largest attempted escapes of Africans in the U.S. occurred on a ship called the *Pearl*. It sailed from Washington, D.C. down the Potomac River for Frenchtown, MD. Over 70 Freedom Seekers were on board, many from **Asbury United Methodist Church**. Unfortunately, the attempt failed, and the ship was captured near **Point Lookout** in Maryland.

Many of the freedom seekers were bought by slave traders for sale further south. Six **Edmonson family** members were on board: Emily, Mary, Richard, Ephraim, Samuel and John. The Edmonson siblings were purchased by Joseph Bruin of *Bruin & Hill Slave Traders* for \$4500.00. They were held in the **Bruin's Slave Jail** until they were sent to New Orleans, but after the yellow fever epidemic broke out Emily, Mary and Richard returned to Baltimore. The other 3 brothers were sold in New Orleans. (Richard had been redeemed by money donated by a grandson of John Jacob Astor). The girls' father, Paul Edmonson, who was free, eventually raised the money needed to purchase his

daughters. Paul traveled with **William Chaplin**, a white antislavery activist, on speaking engagements to raise the \$2250 needed to purchase his two daughters.

The Pearl incident had an influence on author **Harriet Beecher Stowe** in writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Stowe used the Edmonson sisters as partial models for her characters Emmeline and Cassy. Congregational Minister, **Henry Ward Beecher**, Harriet's brother, spoke to his congregation on behalf of the sisters and the church was able to raise \$87.

Four weeks after being freed, the sisters were presented to Rev. Beecher's congregation to help raise money for their education. **William Chaplin** wrote to **Gerrit Smith** on several occasions regarding the Edmonson sisters and their fundraising efforts. Mary Edmonson died while attending Oberlin Prep Division and is buried in **Westwood Cemetery** in Oberlin.

While attempting to leave town with two freedom seekers, Chaplin was arrested. He was freed on bail, with a majority of

the funds donated by **Gerrit Smith**. Chaplin left Maryland for New York and never returned. He was never tried in court.

The story of Pearl is told as part of a guided walking tour of Maryland called “**In Their Steps**.”

So far, the *Pearl* incident involves seven Network to Freedom listings in five states.

- Asbury United Methodist Church (DC)
- Point Lookout State Park (MD)
- Bruin's Slave Jail (VA)
- Arrest site of William Chaplin (MD)
- Gerrit Smith Estate (NY)
- Westwood Cemetery (OH)
- “In Their Steps” (MD)

People involved in the *Pearl* incident

- **Edmonson Family**
- **Harriet Beecher Stowe & brother,**
- **Rev. Henry Ward Beecher**
- **William Chaplin**
- **Gerrit Smith**

Candidates for Tenth Round

The following candidates are being considered for inclusion in the Network to Freedom in the tenth round of applications. On August 31, 2005, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, at the Natchez Museum of African American History and Culture, 301 Main Street, Natchez, MS 39102, the regional coordinator committee will review and vote on the applications listed below. The public is invited to attend. For further information or to comment on the applications, please consult the Network website at www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr, or contact Diane Miller at National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 or at 402-661-1588.

Sites

DC

- African American Civil War Memorial
- Camp Greene and Contraband Camp

Iowa

- Mason House Inn
- Theron Trowbridge Site

Illinois

- Illinois College—Beecher Hall (Chapel) and site of the College Building
- Pettengill Home Site

Maryland

- Berry Farm
- Jacob Leverton Dwelling
- Site of Newport Mill
- Rockland
- Shawnee Old Field Village Site
- Swallowfield

Michigan

- Saline Presbyterian Church

- W.W. Harwood Farmstead

New York

- Cayuga County Courthouse
- Howland Stone Store Museum
- James Canning & Lydia Fuller House
- Site of Martha & David Wright House

New Jersey

- Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Mt Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church

Ohio

- John King Farm

Pennsylvania

- Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Virginia

- Gunston Hall

Programs

DC

- "From Slavery to Freedom"

Iowa

- Iowa Freedom Trail
- "Mysterious Tracks, Stories of the UGRR in Iowa/Bury my Bones but Remember my Words"

New Mexico

- Harriet's Return

Facilities

Georgia

- Quilt Code Museum (at Underground Atlanta)

New York

- Cayuga Co Historian's Office
- Case Memorial Seymour Library-Mary Van Sickle Wait History Room

Dr. Woods' passing

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the first meeting of people from around the nation interested in creating a group to preserve and promote the Network to Freedom and the Underground Railroad. Dr. Woods spearheaded the formation of a friends group in support of the Network to Freedom at a meeting held in Washington, DC, in February, 2003, that was attended by representatives from around the country. She was the guiding spirit until her untimely death.

Dr. Woods is also remembered as

a pioneer in African American Studies who directed the African American Studies Institute and



Dr. Woods at the Network to Freedom launch event, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania September 2001

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at St. Louis University. She retired in 1999 after more than 28 years with the university. Until the time of her death, she continued working with students as a professor of urban specialization at Harris-Stowe State College.

Dr. Woods will be missed by her family and friends and the many students whose lives she touched. The Network to Freedom staff will especially miss her unfailing spirit and words of encouragement.

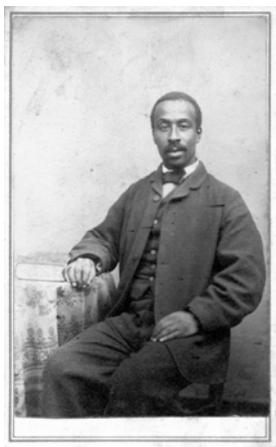
Seeking Freedom in Nineteenth-Century America

By Sheila Sibley, Curator, Newton History Museum at Jackson Homestead (MA)

The Newton History Museum's new exhibit, "Seeking Freedom in Nineteenth-Century America," explores American slavery and anti-slavery activity in the nineteenth century through stories of four individuals who sought their own freedom or assisted others. The exhibition also reveals how subsequent generations defined and preserved evidence of freedom.

Charles Redding of the Kearsarge

In September of 1850, ten-year-old Charles Redding was an inmate of the House of Industry in Boston. Twelve years later he was in New Bedford, MA enlisting in the Union Navy, an institu-



Charles Redding

tion he would be a part of until 1867. One of the ships he served on was the Kearsarge, which sank the Confederate Alabama in 1864. In both the late 1850s and in the summer of 1866 he sat for portraits. Both portraits, an ambrotype and a carte-de-visite, are on view in the exhibit. They show a handsome, successful African-American man, one of nearly 18,000 African-Americans to serve in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. At some time in his life he met, and received aid from, Newton resident Henry Lemon. The portraits were donated to the Newton History Museum by Lemon's great, great-granddaughter, Laura Fewkes.

Gifts in Grateful Recognition

Some time during the early nineteenth century, a piece of West African cloth and a gold ring were sent via ship from an African father to Salem, MA resident and abolitionist William B. Dodge. Although we do not know the name of the gift giver, the gifts were sent to Dodge "by an African Chief-tain in grateful recognition for sending him his kidnapped son, who was sold into American slavery, back home." He trusted that these items would reach Dodge, as Dodge had trusted that the man's son would reach him. Dodge's great, great-granddaughter was Newton resident Virginia Gray, who donated the cloth and ring to the museum in 1991. Both the hand-woven textile and the ring are displayed in the exhibition. Looking at them, we can only imagine the sorrow of the father at the loss of his son and the joy he must have felt when his son returned to him.

A Free Woman of Color

On August 30, 1849, Louisa Magruder Addison, a freeborn African-American woman, registered her free status with the Prince George's County court clerk. By Maryland law, she had to obtain a Certificate of Freedom to travel out of the county in which she had been born free. The law required that the certificate note how the free person became entitled to his or her freedom. As written on her certificate, Louisa "became entitled to her freedom by virtue of her being the reputed daughter of Matilda Magruder who was also a free woman." Featured in the exhibition is the Certificate of Freedom Louisa obtained that August day, and the silk purse in which she carried it, both on loan to the museum from Howard and Karen Haywood. Louisa, Howard's great, great-grandmother, moved to Newton with her family between 1867 and 1870. Passed down from one generation to the next, the certificate generates conflicting emotions for Howard

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Announcements

NTF Coordinator Changes

Northeast Coordinator Tara Morrison remains on a detail appointment. Sheri Jackson continues to cover daily operations with the Network to Freedom Program. Sheri may be reached at sheri_jackson@nps.gov or 215-597-7050.

New Address for NTF Coordinator

National Capital Region Coordinator Jenny Masur has relocated to a new office. Her new contact information is:

Interpretation and Education
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20242
Jenny_masur@nps.gov
202-619-7136 voice
202-619-7159 fax

Buxton 8th Annual US-Canadian History and Genealogy Conference

September 2, 2005; North Buxton Community Church, Ontario. Buxton Homecoming on September 3. contact: 519-352-4799 or buxton@ciaccess.com or www.buxtonmuseum.com

Secrets of the Underground Railroad

September 10, 2 pm; Civil War and Underground Railroad Museum of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Learn about the use of archeology to find Underground Railroad evidence. Also, on 2nd Saturdays of the month, story hours at 11 am featuring living history storytellers. www.cwurmuseum.org

Underground Railroad Gathering in New Jersey

September 21, 2005, 8:30-3:30; War Memorial, Trenton, New Jersey. Come network and share information. RSVP by September 9 to Giles Wright at 609-984-3464.

American Association for State and Local History annual conference

September 21-24; Hilton Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Discuss vari-

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Black History Committee of Loudoun County, Virginia: a Wide Circle of Interest

By Alexandra Gressitt, Manager, Thomas Balch Library

A little more than four years have passed since a group of descendants, local historians and interested citizens met to discuss an anonymous gift of \$50,000 to Leesburg, Virginia's Thomas Balch Library (a facility in the Network to Freedom) to honor a prominent African-American from Loudoun County. The resulting Black History Committee (BHC) of the Friends of Thomas Balch Library, Inc. is now researching Underground Railroad links, reaching out to the Loudoun community, joining other groups such as the Quad-State Symposium for Black History and is about to publish its fourth book.

In the Watchfires: The Loudoun County Emancipation Association, 1890-1971, is written by Elaine Thompson, the granddaughter of Howard W. Clark, Sr., a founder and early president for whom one room in the renovated local history Thomas Balch library is now named. Thompson, along with co-editors Betty Morefield and Mary Randolph, and assisted by other members of the BHC, has produced

one other committee book *Essence of a People, Portraits of African Americans Who Made a Difference in Loudoun County, Virginia*, (2001) and contributed to a companion book, *The Essence of a People II, African Americans Who Made Their World Anew in Loudoun County, Virginia and Beyond* (2002), edited by Kendra Hamilton. Another publication, *Loudoun County's African American*



Communities, A Tour Map and Guide, (2004) was produced by the committee with the considerable assistance of consultant and committee member Deborah Lee. The BHC also worked with Loudoun Museum in 2001 to produce *African-American Heritage Trail, Leesburg, Virginia* by Deborah Lee.

The research required for all of these publications and the outreach of the committee (cited below) has revealed Underground Railroad networks in Loudoun County. At this time, Thomas Balch Library, The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Oatlands Plantation and the Courthouse in Leesburg are on the Register for Loudoun County. Research is ongoing for additional sites. BHC member Bronwen Souders and her husband, John, are donating electronic scans to Thomas Balch website of their research of over 250 slave advertisements, published in the *Genius of Liberty* (published in Leesburg 1817-1843) reflecting biographic data on slaves, their owners, renters, homes and possible destinations of runaway or captured slaves passing through Leesburg. This material will be available some time in 2005.

With grant funds, the BHC has purchased numerous books and microfilms, including Freedmen's Bureau records and the *Afro-American* newspaper published in Washington and Baltimore, 1893-1967 for Thomas Balch Library. Committee

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Newton History Museum at Jackson Homestead, Exhibit on Freedom

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Haywood. "I experience a tremendous sense of pride that my great-great-grandmother Louisa Magruder although born free had to have papers to prove her humanity, survived an environment of hate, but left us a legacy of hope. I try to imagine the circumstances of her journey from Maryland to Massachusetts as she encountered people who had no respect for her or the paper she held."

With a Welcome to Any of the Workers Against Slavery

"One night between twelve and one o'clock I well remember father was awakened by pebbles thrown against his chamber window. He rose and asked what was wanted. Bowditch replied it was he with a runaway slave whom he wished father to hide till morning and then help him on his

way to Canada, for his master was in Boston looking for him." Written in 1894, these words by Ellen Jackson about her father William Jackson help document the homestead as a station on the Underground Railroad. Jackson family members were abolitionists, a minority group. Yet even within this one Newton family, members did not agree on how the institution of slavery should be abolished. Three manuscripts written by two generations of Jackson family members are displayed in the exhibit: the 1894 reminiscences of Ellen Jackson quoted above; the 1859 school journal of William Jackson Fuller, in which he laments the execution of John Brown; and an 1862 letter from Sarah Jackson Tappan to her sister Hannah Jackson Fuller, in which she writes "I feel like praying that the war may not end till slavery does." When

placed side by side the documents reveal the hopes and the fears of one abolitionist family, part of a larger, although never large, group of people struggling to end legal slavery in the United States.

The development and creation of this exhibit were made possible with funds provided by the Newton Historical Society and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. "Seeking Freedom in Nineteenth Century America" will be open for viewing until January 2006. The Newton History Museum is located at Jackson Homestead, one of the first members of the Network to Freedom.

Black History Committee, Loudoun County, Virginia

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members Betty Morefield and Wynne Saffer have begun transcribing some of the Freedmen's Bureau records. Over 35 oral histories of African American residents have been taped and transcribed and photographs taken.

Community outreach has been a strong element of the BHC direction. Members, including charter members Lou Etta Watkins and Mary Randolph, have spoken at community centers and schools and held roundtable discussions on life in Loudoun. The latter sessions have been transcribed and are available at Thomas Balch Library. The community also facilitated—through money, time and research, a historic resources survey of African-American sites in the county under the

direction of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

In 2004, A Glimpse into the History of African Americans in Loudoun County website <http://www.balchfriends.org/Glimpse/index.html> was launched by Rachel Thompson and Annie Hulen of the Friends Education Committee, assisted by several members of the BHC. The site was carefully designed to meet Virginia Standards of Learning for middle and high school students and teachers for black history study and is proving a popular and easily up-dateable tool.

In addition to using some portion of the initial gift monies, the BHC has sought grant funds to support its publications, provide assistance to Thomas Balch Library collections and community out-

reach. The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy has been a generous supporter, as have been the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society, the Loudoun Library Foundation, and the Friends of Balch Library, Inc.

Consultant Marie Tyler McGraw gave valuable advice at the beginning on the direction the committee could take, and Friends member and officer and BHC member Susan Webber has contributed in many organizational ways. Pauline Singletary guided the committee as Chair since 2000, and Phyllis Cook-Taylor took over in 2005, having served as financial coordinator since the committee's inception. Inquiries may be directed to Cook-Taylor c/o Black History Committee at P.O. Box 2184, Leesburg, VA 20177.

Announcements (continued)

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ous areas of interpretation including slavery, community involvement and the future of history, learn about the governance of small and large organizations, discover new ideas for children's programming, and explore how we determine what history is important and what is not. <http://www.aaslh.org/anmeeting.htm>

Association for the Study of African American Life and History 90th Annual Convention

October 5-9; Buffalo Hyatt, Buffalo, New York. The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn 1905-2005. for information see: <http://www.asalh.com/90thconvention.html>

Twentieth Annual Lincoln Colloquium

October 7-8; Lincoln Home NHS, Springfield, Illinois. Includes teacher's workshop. For information: tim_townsend@nps.gov

Tenth Annual Ohio Underground Railroad Summit

October 14-16; Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, Ohio. Keynote speaker Dorothy Spurill-Redford (*Somerset Homecoming*), Executive Director, Somerset

Plantation, Creswell, North Carolina. Attendees must pre-register. See <http://www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org/submit10.htm> for more information.

Borderlands IV Underground Railroad Conference

October 14-15; Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky. Fosters collaboration between academic and lay community researchers. See <http://www.nku.edu/~freedom/>

2005 Maryland African American Heritage Preservation Conference

October 20-23; Easton, Maryland. Connect those interested in preserving culture and history. Contact Anita Neal Powell at 301-241-2747 or lincolnparkhist@aol.com

Re-Issue of William Still's Classic, The Underground Railroad

Originally published in 1872 and out of print for many years, this landmark book presents accounts of freedom seekers recorded and preserved by William Still, a son of emancipated slaves and a key figure in Philadelphia's anti-slavery movement during the mid-19th century. The 2005 edition includes the complete text of

the 1872 edition, along with the original author's preface from the 1878 edition, a biography of William Still, and a new foreword by Professor Sarah Smith Ducksworth of Kean University (NJ). For more info see <http://www.plexuspublishing.com/ugrr.shtml>

New Books

Bordewich, Fergus M. *Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America*.

Frazier, Harriett C. *Runaway and Freed Missouri Slaves and Those Who Helped Them, 1763-1865*.

Friends of Freedom Society. *Freedom Seekers: Ohio and the Underground Railroad*. (see www.ohioundergroundrailroad.org)

Grffler, Keith. *Front Line of Freedom: African Americans and the Forging of the Underground Railroad in the Ohio Valley*.

Hoffman, Judy. *God's Portion: Godfrey, Illinois, 1817-1865/*

Michael, Peter H. *An American Family of the Underground Railroad*.

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NOTE: New Address
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Please forward notices, items of interest,
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Comments on the newsletter are also wel-
come.

Deadlines are January 15 and July 15.