

A PUBLICATION OF
INDIANA FREEDOM TRAILS, INC.™

A diverse group working to locate, to identify, to verify, to protect, to preserve and to promote those Indiana sites and routes as part of the National Underground Railroad Network. We dedicate ourselves and our resources to the research, education, interpretation and reverence of our Underground Railroad heritage for the benefit of generations to come.

Mission statement

Tracks

July 2007



Just as those in the nineteenth century ventured forth seeking freedom from bondage in the South and seeking assistance along the way, Indiana Freedom Trails, Inc. is venturing forth in new format to gather information and forward it along to those who possess an interest in this fascinating but often secretive portion of our Hoosier heritage. Established in 1998, Indiana Freedom Trails, Inc. invites you to share your stories with us, and participate in our efforts to continue along the paths that our mission statement professes. The network of the Underground Railroad through Indiana brought together people of several colors, religions, Northern and Southern, enslaved and free in ordinary and extraordinary ways – united in a common cause. Join us in a journey that will carry you along the tracks of a railroad with no rails, stopping at depots that you would never suspect, and meeting some fascinating folks along the way.



In this first edition of *Tracks*, we are experimenting with what we hope will be of interest to you. This publication is being designed to coincide with our quarterly meetings, currently being held in Indianapolis. Eventually we will be able to send this out by email and have it posted to our website – currently under construction. Your information on events and programs is always welcome – but be sure to remember to get the information to our editor with plenty of time for her to input. We hope that you will excuse any derailments or missed stops in this edition.

Indiana Freedom Trails Inc. Quarterly Meeting
Saturday July 14th, 2007 11am-1pm
Indiana Historical Society
450 W. Ohio Street (parking off New York Street)



Update on HR1239



To amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes.

Latest Action: House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. This occurred on June 28, 2007.

This bill, sponsored by Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) now has 66 co-sponsors, but only 3 of Indiana's 9 Representatives have signed on: Julia Carson - 7th Dist., Mark Souder - 3rd Dist., and Dan Burton - 5th Dist. It is imperative that we work to get more of our own Congressmen on board in order to continue our work in documenting, researching and securing a part of Hoosier History. If you want more information on the bill's status or writing our Representatives check out www.house.gov.

We need support from: Peter Visclosky - 1st Dist.; Baron Hill - 9th Dist.; Joe Donnelly - 2nd Dist.; Steve Buyer - 4th Dist.; Mike Pence - 6th Dist.; Brad Ellsworth - 8th Dist.



Indiana Freedom Trails Inc. Board of Directors:

Maxine Brown, Jae Breitwieser, Gwen Crenshaw, Peg Dillbone, Carol Hall, Thomas Hendrickson, Sandra Jackson, Janice McGuire, William O. Smith, Dona Stokes-Lucas

I now come to that part of my life during which I planned, and finally succeeded in making my escape from slavery. But before narrating any of the peculiar circumstances, I deem it proper to make know my intention not to state all the facts connected with the transaction. My reasons for pursuing this course may be understood from the following: First, were I to give a minute statement of all the facts, it is not only possible, but quite probable, that others would thereby be involved in the most embarrassing difficulties. Secondly, such a statement would most undoubtedly induce greater vigilance on the part of slaveholders than has existed heretofore among them; which would, of course, be the means of guarding a door whereby some dear brother bondman might escape his galling chains.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, written by Himself, with an Introduction and Notes by Robert O'Meally, Barnes & Noble Classics, NY: 2003 p. 88
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave was first published in 1845 by the Anti-Slavery Office.



Tickets Please!

Events and Happenings

**July 14 11:00 a.m. New Albany, Indiana
State Historical Marker Dedication**

honoring the New Albany Salem Railroad (Monon)

Organized in 1847 and extending all the way to Michigan city by 1854, the railroad was often used as a guide for freedom seekers who followed the tracks on foot, hid in the box cars, purchased tickets by using false freedom papers, wore disguised or posed as the servant of a white passenger.



Looking Back, Moving Forward



**The First Friends of the Network to Freedom Conference
September 10-15, 2007**

Georgetown College, Georgetown KY

For conference information check out www.ugrri.org

IFT Members can save on registration fees!

Contact donnastokes-lucas@juno.com for details

**National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
is offering a Savings on Admission**

Check the website www.freedomcenter.org/visit/save-on-admission

Print a coupon for \$2 off up to four (4) tickets!

The Center is open Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-5:00

Ticket prices are \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$8 Children, Children 6 & under are free

LINKS -

Railways for information on the Underground Railroad



- ✧ **NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION ARRIVING SOON! Indiana Freedom Trails Inc. website: www.indianafreedomtrails.org**
- ✧ **Dispelling Myths, Let's Keep Integrity in telling the Underground Railroad Story: the American folksong Follow the Drinking Gourd was first published in 1928. The Drinking Gourd song was supposedly used by Underground Railroad Operatives to encode escape instructions and a map. Visit the website that presents ongoing research and you decide – www.followthedrinkinggourd.org**
- ✧ **If you haven't stopped by here for a visit, you're missing the train! www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr/ National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The website address for the National Park Service has changed and you might need to reset your browser. Check out what is happening around the country through the newsletter.**
- ✧ **www.freedomcenter.org - another great stop – not to be missed**
- ✧ **www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/ihb/ugrr - our own State Library**
- ✧ **www.history.com/ugrr - The History Channel**
- ✧ **www.in.gov/dnr/historic/ugrr - Department of National Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology**
- ✧ **www.indianahistory.org – The Indiana Historical Society. A vast collection of manuscripts, visual materials, and rare published volumes helps to create a clearer understanding of the times in which our ancestors lived. The Smith Library has an abundance of resources available to researchers!**
- ✧ **www.amazinggracemovie.com - the story of William Wilberforce, who worked passionately to abolish slavery in Britain.**
- ✧ **www.southeastindianatrialstofreedom.com - The Southeast Indiana Trail to Freedom including: www.waynet.org/levicoffin The Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad in Fountain City; www.carnegiecenter.org Carnegie Center for Art & History in New Albany; www.eleutherian.us Historic Eleutherian College in Madison.**
- ✧ **www.visions.indstate.edu/ Wabash Valley Visions & Voices: A Digital Memory Project for West Central Indiana. This project is dedicated to the documentation and preservation of the region's history and heritage in print, pictures and sound. Please feel free to examine the materials that have been digitized and made available through this collaborative effort. Click on Underground Railroad.**



We are always looking for sites and information on credible research and programs relating to our quest in documenting UGRR activities. We will be setting up an info link where you can contact us to give or receive information.

Current Listings with National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr (NOTE: The web site address has changed!)

Indiana

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Indianapolis [site]
"Courts in the Classroom, Indiana Supreme Court, Indianapolis [program]
Decatur County Courthouse [site]
Dr. Samuel Tibbets Home Site [site]
"Freedom is My Home" [program]
Georgetown Historic District [site]
Historic Eleutherian College [site]
Indiana Freedom Trails Educational and Research Program [program]
Isaiah Walton Home Site [site]
John Gill and Martha Wilson Craven Home [site]
Levi Coffin House State Historic Site [site]
Lyman Hoyt House [site]
Tibbets House [site]
"The Underground Railroad in Floyd County, Indiana" [program]
Underground Railroad Initiative, Department of Natural Resources, Division
of Historic Preservation and Archeology [program]
William and Margaret Hicklin Home [site]
Seymour Train Station [site]

Illinois

Congregational Church (Jacksonville) [site]
Dr. Hiram Rutherford Home [site]
Dr. Richard Eells House [site]
Galesburg Colony UGRR Freedom Station-Knox
College [program]
Illinois College —Beecher Hall (Chapel) and the site
of the College Building (1832-1852) [site]
Kimzey Crossing /Locust Hill [site]
Lucius Read House [site]
Old Slave House (reverse UGRR) [site]
Owen Lovejoy Homestead [site]
Pettengill Home Site [site]
Rocky Fork [site]
UGRR in Illinois [program]

Michigan

Caroline Quarlls: A Family Legacy of Freedom
[program]
"Flight to Freedom" at Historic First Congregational
Church of Detroit [program]
Free Soil Underground Railroad Sightseeing Bus Tour
(tour) [program]
Guy Beckley House [site]
International Underground Railroad Heritage
Program [program]
Jonathan Walker Grave and Marker [site]
Journey to Freedom Underground Railroad Tours
[program]
Underground Railroad Monument (Battle Creek)
[site]
W.W. Harwood Farmstead [site]

Ohio

Bloomingsburg Presbyterian Church [site]
Boyhood Home of Dr. William Thompson [site]
Bunker Hill House [site]
Burial Site of US Senator Thomas Morris [site]
Clermont County Courthouse [site]
Clermont County Underground Railroad Public
Education Program [program]
Clermont County Trail Tour [program]
Charles B. Huber Homesite [site]
Charles B. Huber Farm [site]
Dr. L.T. Pease Homesite [site]
Experience the Underground Railroad [program]
(NPS, Cuyahoga Valley National Park)
Felicity Wesleyan Church [site]
A Forge for Freedom [program]
"A Fugitive's Path-Escape on the Underground
Railroad" [program]
Gus West Site/Abolition Lane [site]
Haines House [site]
Homesite of Dr. William E. Thompson [site]
James & Sophia Clemens Farmstead [site]
John P. Parker House [site]
John Rankin House [site]
King Family Cemetery [site]
Lindale Baptist Church and Cemetery [site]
Marcus Sims-Charles Huber Tannery [site]
Nelson T. Gant Homestead [site]
New Richmond , Ohio , Waterfront [site]
Oberlin Heritage Center/O.H.I.O. [facility]
Oberlin-Wellington Rescue Monument [site]
Office of the Philanthropist Newspaper [site]
Old Calvary Methodist Church [site]
On the Trail to Freedom in Lorain County , Ohio
[program]
Robert Fee Burial Site [site]
Robert Fee Homesite [site]
Spring Hill Historic Home [site]
Spring Hill Historic Home (tour) [program]
The Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church Cemetery [site]
Tate Township Cemetery [site]
The Underground Railroad & Its Connection to the
Ohio River [program]
Voices of Freedom [program]
Westwood Cemetery [site]
Williamsburg Cemetery [site]
Will Sleet Homesite [site]