

**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

October 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 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.



WHAT'S IN A NAME??? While we continue with the name *Tracks* for this second edition we are interested in what you might like to see as the name for our newsletter. We also continue to experiment 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. 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 October 20, 2007 11am-1pm

Indiana Historical Society

450 W. Ohio Street

(free parking off New York Street)

Presenters:

Kisha Tandy – Indiana State Museum

“Interpreting Indiana’s Underground Railroad”

William Smith – Decatur County Underground Railroad

“Technology of Fugitive Slave Underground”

Program is free & open to the public

Check out our revised website: www.indianafreedomtrails.org



Indiana Freedom Trails

Board of Directors:

Maxine Brown - Director Leora Brown School, Corydon IN

Jae Breitweiser - Director Eleutherian College, Lancaster IN

Gwen Crenshaw - IUPUI Professor, Historian

Peg Dilbone - Fremont Historical Society, Independent Researcher

Carol Hall - President Marion County Historical Society

Thomas Hendrickson - Independent Researcher & Attorney

Sandra Jackson - Levi Coffin Home

Marlene Lu - Friends of Historic Allen Chapel, Terre Haute IN

Dona Stokes-Lucas - Independent Researcher

Janice McGuire - Levi Coffin Home

William O. Smith - Decatur IN Underground Railroad, Researcher & Attorney

To add items to the website contact Dona Stokes-Lucas at donnastokes-lucas@juno.com, including announcements or events for the calendar; articles, research tips, scholarly opinions (with reprint permission if required) – a pdf format preferred. To add items to the quarterly newsletter forward to Marlene Lu at mlu3@isugw.indstate.edu

FYI

Have you seen it? Newest edition of National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Newsletter:

www.nps.gov/history/ugrr/ Deadlines for submission of items of interest for the National Newsletter are January 15 and July 15.

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Grant Program, sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and the Kentucky Historical Society are offering program grants of up to \$5,000. The deadline is November 1, 2007 For more information contact Chris Goodlett at chris.goodlett@ky.gov

The Elder G. Hawkins Foundation, Inc. is offering grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$10,000 for nonprofit arts organizations working to preserve African-American arts and culture through youth education and community outreach programs. Visit www.leghf.org for more information.



Update on HR1239



Network To Freedom Funding Drive Moves to the Senate

H. R. 1239, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization bill introduced by Congressmen Alcee Hastings and Michael Castle passed the House in July 2007. In late June, Senator Joe Biden introduced S. 1709, the Senate companion bill to the Hasting/Castle initiative. The bill has been referred to the Senate committee on Energy & Natural Resources. S. 1709 already has over 10 co-sponsors.

Newsletter Contest

We are looking for a name for our newsletter currently called Tracks that is published quarterly, by Editor Marlene Lu. To make a recommendation, just go to our website www.indianafreedomtrails.org click on contact us and send in your entry. You can also cast a vote for the current title. The winning name will be selected by the board and announced at the January 2008 meeting. The winner will receive a special gift to be determined.
Deadline for entries, December 15th, 2007.

Looking Back, Moving Forward Conference A Huge Success

Indiana was well represented at the Inaugural Conference, Friends Network to Freedom Association held September 10-15, 2007, at Georgetown College, Georgetown KY. The keynote speaker was Charles Ogletree, Harvard School Law professor. Special guests included Robert George Stanton, former director of the National Park Service, and Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Gee Gee Nation.

Georgetown College established the Underground Railroad Research Institute in 2001 for the purpose of promoting education and cultural understanding among students, communities, and the nation. Alicestyne Adams, the institute director, also serves as president of the National Network to Freedom Association.

Plans are underway for October 2008 in Philadelphia, which will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the National Park Service, Network To Freedom Program. Proposals are being accepted for the 2009 conference. A committee to bring the conference to Indianapolis in 2009 is being developed, if you would like to volunteer to work on this project contact donnastokes-lucas@juno.com.

Kudos to all the Hoosiers that participated at this year's conference. Indiana had the largest group of any state that registered. Great Job!

Presenters:

Jae Breitweiser
Janice McQuire
Dr. Elizabeth Osborn
Pamela Peters
Deborah Asante

Conference Attendees:

Judy Buckendorf
Keesha Dixon
Jeannie Regan-Dinius
Carol Hall
Thomas Henderickson

Elbert Hinds
Saundra Jackson
Diane Lewis
Dona Stokes Lucas
Sally Newkirk

Amanda Pietrykowski
William O. Smith
Kisha Tandy



Harriet Jacobs was born into slavery; it's the only life she has ever known. Now, with the death of her mistress, there is a chance she will be given her freedom, and for the first time Harriet feels hopeful. But hoping can be dangerous, because disappointment is devastating. Harriet has one last hope, though: escape north. And as she faces numerous ordeals, this hope gives her the strength she needs to survive.

A fictionalized version of the life of Harriet Jacobs, told in the form of letters that she might have written during her slavery in North Carolina and as she prepared for escape to the north in 1842.

Letters From a Slave Girl – The Story of Harriet Jacobs,
by Mary E. Lyons, Aladdin Paperbacks, a division of Simon & Schuster, NY: 1992



National Underground Railroad - Network to Freedom

Jae Breitweiser

Several years have passed and many states have worked hard to document their Underground Railroad history. The "Network To Freedom" program has to approve the research for its correctness before each site is listed with them. There are two dates each year when applications are reviewed and voted on, January 15th and June 15th.

I would suggest you start the process with communication with them on a site way before the dates noted. There are also certain directions to complete the application correctly that you will need time to complete.

James Hill is the coordinator for Indiana and Diana Miller is Director of the Network To Freedom program.

This program has three categories that an application can be submitted for: 1. Sites, 2. Programs, 3. Facilities.

At present time Indiana ranks 6th as to the most sites turned in to them. Ohio is first followed by New York, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively.

It would be great if we as a state would work hard to get our sites recognized and listed with the Network To Freedom program. We have many sites that are known, but we need to get them listed within this program to raise our numbers.

In 2009 the Network To Freedom program will be celebrating their 10th year and we could celebrate by having Indiana having as many sites listed as possible. Please feel free to contact Freedom Trails group to help you with your applications.





Take part in a cohesive, diverse group working to locate, identify, preserve, and promote Indiana's Underground Railroad history!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Membership is \$25.00 per year. Please make your check payable to Indiana Freedom Trails and send to:

Indiana Freedom Trails
PO Box 2917
Indianapolis IN 46206