

**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

April 2008



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.



**ACTIVITIES.** Our publication is being designed to coincide with our quarterly meetings, currently being held in Indianapolis. Your information on events and programs is always welcome –the deadline for inclusion is a month prior to the meeting date. We hope that you will excuse any derailments or missed stops in this edition.

**Indiana Freedom Trails Inc. Quarterly Meeting  
Saturday, April 5, 2008 11am-1pm  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 W. Ohio Street  
(free parking off New York Street)**

**“Where Do We Go From Here?”**

**Program is free & open to the public**

**Check out our revised website: [www.indianafreedomtrails.org](http://www.indianafreedomtrails.org)**

To add items to the website contact Dona Stokes-Lucas at [donnastokes-lucas@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto:mlu3@isugw.indstate.edu)

## Indiana Freedom Trails



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**July 12, 2008**--Indiana Freedom Trails will meet from 11 am to 1 pm at the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis IN; parking is off of New York St.).

**September 15-20, 2008**--The Friends of the Network to Freedom Association (which supports the [National Park Service](#)) will hold their second Annual Conference in historic downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Call for papers posted at [www.indianafreedomtrails.org](http://www.indianafreedomtrails.org) (See below for more information)

**October 18, 2008**--Indiana Freedom Trails will meet from 11 am to 1 pm at the Indiana Historical Society (450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis IN; parking is off of New York St.).



Indianapolis has been selected as the host location of the Friends Network to Freedom Association Conference in September, 2009. In celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Network to Freedom program, we would like for all IFT members and their friends to work on applications for submission to get sites, programs or facilities listed in the NTF database. If you haven't prepared an application for the January 15, 2008, review, the next review and vote date for applications will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. Due to the time and documentation required applications need to be started on NOW!

As Jae Breitweiser mentioned in the October edition of Tracks, Indiana ranks 6<sup>th</sup> as to the most sites turned in. Ohio is currently first, followed by New York, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania respectively. We have many sites that are known we just need to get to work to get them listed.

Indiana Freedom Trails members can be available to assist and answer questions that may arise. Let's make sure that Indiana increases their number of sites by the time the conference comes to call! For information visit [www.nps.gov/ugrr/](http://www.nps.gov/ugrr/)

*Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history.*

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson  
author, editor, publisher, and historian  
December 1875 - April 1950



IFT Members and Regional Coordinators provide countless volunteer hours dedicated to the preservation, education and commemoration of Indiana's UGRR history.

We hope that several Hoosiers will support the Conference of the National Network to Freedom Friends Association in Philadelphia, PA, to let the other folks know that Indiana will be the right place to be in 2009.

In the meantime, with growth there are added costs: maintaining the website, marketing, outreach, research, and educational programs. We hope you will spread the word to others that with a donation of \$25.00, their annual membership will be an investment into the history of Indiana's Underground Railroad Heritage. Have them complete the membership application and send it in today! Don't miss out on a great opportunity to support Indiana Freedom Trails, Inc.

We'll be great in 2008!  
The Board  
Indiana Freedom Trails Inc.

**" ON THE RIGHT TRACK"  
10 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S  
NATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD  
NETWORK TO FREEDOM  
SEPTEMBER 15-20, 2008  
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

In 1998, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was signed into law to help preserve the history and educate the public about the Underground Railroad. As a result of this legislation, there are now over 300 nationally recognized Underground Railroad sites, programs, and facilities. In order to commemorate this important and historic legislation, a 6-day conference will be hosted at the Holiday Inn Hotel, located in the Historic District of Philadelphia, PA. The conference will feature pre- and post-conference events, exhibits, speakers, workshops and more.

Future Conferences are scheduled for Indianapolis 2009 & Topeka 2010



## Update on HR1239/S1709



### National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007, introduced last year by Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) has been packaged in a large omnibus of non-controversial public lands bills known as S. 2739 which will likely come up for a cloture vote the first or second week in April 2008.

Please contact your Senator and ask them to support Indiana's heritage and the Network to Freedom program (NTF) by voting "yes" on S. 2739.

The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was signed into law in July 1998 (Public Law 105-203) and established the Network to Freedom program (NTF) to increase public knowledge and awareness of the Underground Railroad. The NTF matches Park Service resources and knowledge with local expertise thus enabling communities, scholars, and national park units all across the United States to more capably tell their part of the Underground Railroad story. The NTF is the only national program dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Underground Railroad history.

**A Chronic Lack of Funding Threatens the Network's Future:** With annual operations funding authorized at \$500,000 a year, the NTF has suffered from inadequate funding since its inception. Flat line budgets and program cuts have now reduced the actual budget of the NTF to \$479,000. According to recent Park Service financial projections, the NTF budget will be reduced by 72 percent by the year 2011, thus effectively terminating the program.

**A Reasonable Solution is Within Our Grasp:** S. 1709 The National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007 was introduced by Senator Joseph Biden (DE-D) in July of 2007. The bill calls for raising the authorized funding limit for the Network to Freedom program from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. This modest but much needed increase would make it possible for Congress to fund the NTF program at a more realistic level erasing the program's operating deficit and providing basic programmatic services. A companion bill, H.R. 1239 introduced by Representatives Alcee Hastings (D-FL) and Michael Castle (R-DE), passed the House earlier this year.

The list of co-sponsors for S. 1709 includes Senators Alexander (TN), **Bayh (IN)**, Cardin (MD), Carper (DE), Clinton (NY), Cochran (MS), Kennedy (MA), Kerry (MA), Levin (MI), Nelson (FL), Obama (IL), and Specter (PA).

**A Successful Program with 300 Partners Nationwide:** The NTF has a staff of six charged with fulfilling the program's Congressional mandate of establishing partnerships and growing the Network. Regional coordinators invite contacts to submit applications for Network membership. Twice a year NTF staff review membership applications. Those that meet the rigorous NTF criteria are accepted into the program, and are then eligible to apply for NTF grants. The grants, when available, are capped at \$25,000 and must be matched dollar for dollar by non-federal funding.

The NTF has members (institutions, programs, and facilities) in 28 states and the District of Columbia, and over 300 programs, sites, and/or facilities listed in the network.

How you can help the Park Service Protect and Preserve Our History:

Please take a moment to contact your senator. If they're already a co-sponsor of S. 1709, thank them for their support and ask them to help push for quick passage of S. 2739, the public lands omnibus bill introduced by Senator Bingaman. **If they're not yet a cosponsor ask for their support as S. 1709 works its way through the Senate. Timing is crucial and your letters, e-mails, or phone calls will count the most if placed before April 4, 2008.**

For additional details please contact Alan Spears at 202/454-3384 or by e-mail at [aspears@npca.org](mailto:aspears@npca.org) or visit our website at [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).



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