

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 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, July 12, 2008 11am-1pm
Indiana Historical Society
450 W. Ohio Street
(free parking off New York Street)

“Freedom Trails @ the Crossroads”
Round table Discussion & Regional Updates
Special Guest: Alicestyne Adams

Program is free & open to the public

Check out our revised website: www.indianafreedomtrails.org

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

Indiana Freedom Trails



Board of Directors:

Maxine Brown - Director Leora Brown School, Corydon IN
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Dona Stokes-Lucas - Independent Researcher
Janice McGuire - Levi Coffin Home
William O. Smith - Decatur IN Underground Railroad, Researcher & Attorney



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.).

Subject: A roundtable discussion on Indianapolis hosting the 2009 conference of the National Friends Network To Freedom Underground Railroad and how you and your organization can get involved. Special guests: Alicestyne Adams, Director of the Underground Railroad Institute and President of the Friends Group.

July 18-20, 2008--Indiana Freedom Trails will have a table in the Cultural Arts Pavilion during [Summer Celebration Indiana Black Expo](#) in Indianapolis.

September 15-20, 2008--The Friends of the Network to Freedom Association (which supports the [National Park Service](#)) will hold their 2nd Annual Conference in historic downtown Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. See pg. 5 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.).

September 2009--The Friends of the Network to Freedom Association (which supports the [National Park Service](#)) will hold their 3rd Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The theme will be "Freedom Trails at the Crossroads." Contact us now at www.indianafreedomtrails.org for information on how you or your organization can get involved.



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. The next review and vote date in January 15, 2009, Due to the time and documentation required applications need to be started on NOW!

Indiana ranks 6th 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. For information visit www.nps.gov/ugrr/

Trying to plan for the future without a sense of the past is like trying to plant cut flowers.

Daniel Boorstin, historian



Celebrate an Indiana African American heritage trail!

The celebration will begin on

Friday, August 15

on the waterfront in Jeffersonville, Indiana,
with the dedication of an historic marker for Hannah Toliver,
a Jeffersonville resident who was convicted and imprisoned in 1864
for allegedly assisting with the escape of an enslaved person.
She was imprisoned but then pardoned the same year.

After the dedication ceremony which will include music and a re-enactment,
a reception and dinner will be held at the Falls of the Ohio.

The cost is \$25.00 per person.

Saturday, August 16

another historic marker will be dedicated in Corydon, Indiana,
for Oswell Wright, a free man of color who was arrested in 1857,
convicted and imprisoned in 1859
for allegedly assisting with the escape of an enslaved person.

After serving five years in the Frankfort Penitentiary
he was released and returned to Corydon, where he died in 1875.
Wright is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery just inside the gates.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person.

Anyone who is interested should contact Maxine F. Brown
812/284-4451 or mxnbrown@aol.com
no later than July 20.



Update on HR1239/S1709



The good news: Our legislative efforts on behalf of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program (NTF) paid off in full in May of this year. That month, both the House and Senate passed versions of the large public lands omnibus bill containing the NTF Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007. The president quickly signed the bill into law.

That means the NTF is now legally authorized to receive up to \$2.5 million per year - the previous authorization had been \$500,000.

The bad news: Despite the new authorized funding level, operational funding for the NTF program remains at a critically low level.

A quick word here about the difference between an authorization and an appropriation... A program or agency may be authorized to receive a certain amount of federal funding per year (in the case of the NTF that amount is now set at \$2.5 million), but Congress may decide (for any number of reasons) that only a portion of that money be appropriated for the program.

The worse news: NPCA has been working to insert extra money into the FY09 budget for the NTF program. We've got some well placed allies aware of the program and its needs (thanks to your letters, calls, and e-mails) but the appropriations process here in DC is quickly devolving from farce into tragedy. Given the various holidays and recesses, Congress has about 6 weeks left to do any legislating and passing of bills. Negotiations over spending, off shore drilling, and a variety of other election year issues seems to be cooling the desire of many to pass a budget for the Interior Department (which covers the Park Service and thus the NTF program), and we're likely to see a continuing resolution (CR) in place of an actual overall budget for FY09.

For all the non C-SPAN II junkies, that means the NTF will be forced to linger on through FY09 with an operating budget somewhere in the neighborhood of \$483,000 - a sum that fails to cover the basic programmatic needs of the staff and program partners.

The real good news: Our work over the past 14 months has produced a solid network of NTF friends and activists. I intend to engage all of you in a new round of outreach efforts that we'll develop over the course of this coming summer and fall, and then implement in 2009.

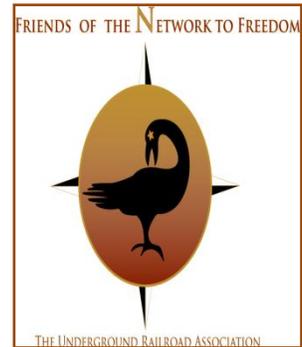
In the meantime, my sincere thanks to everyone who helped get the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Funding Reauthorization Act of 2007 passed. Nice work!

Cheers!

Alan @ NPCA
202/454-3384

SEPT. 15-20, 2008

**On the Right Track:
Ten Years of the National Park Service
Network to Freedom Program
2nd National Underground Railroad Summit**



In conjunction with the **Georgetown College Underground Railroad Research Institute and the National Park Service Network to Freedom Program**, in recognition of ten years of national success in organizing Underground Railroad sites, facilities, and programs that celebrate the history and research associated with the study of the Underground Railroad.

Conference at a Glance:

Monday, September 15:

Quest for Freedom Tour

Tuesday, September 16:

Lancaster & Gettysburg Tour

Wednesday, September 17:

Friends Helping Friends Networking Session 1-3 pm

Evening Reception & Exhibit Hall Preview 6-8 pm

Thursday, September 18

Keynote Addresses:

Dr. Gary Nash, Professor of History, University of California

Lorene Cary, Professor of Literature, University of Pennsylvania

Friday, September 19

Keynote Addresses:

Dr. Julie Roy, Jeffrey Professor of History, Goucher College

Dr. John R. McKivigan, Professor & Editor – Frederick Douglass Papers, IUPUI

Saturday, September 20

Post Conference Tour to Local Archives and Collections

The conference will include many informative panel discussions, including one with Dr. Thomas Hamm, and others from around the country.

Conference events will be hosted at the Historic Holiday Inn,
400 Arch Street, Downtown Philadelphia, 1-800-843-2355.

IFT members can register at Network to Freedom Members rate. Conference information and registration is at www.ugrfriends.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