

The Thirteenth Ohio
Underground Railroad Summit

“Freedom: The Ultimate Price”
The 150th Anniversary of the Death of John Brown



Sponsored by
The Friends of Freedom Society, Inc.



Hudson Library & Historical Society
96 Library Street
Hudson, OH 44236
330-653-6658

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 16

4:00pm – 7:00pm Hotel check-in
7:00pm – 9:00pm Meet & Greet at hotel

Saturday, October 17

6:30am – 8:30am Breakfast buffet at hotel

9:00am - 9:15am Welcome - Cathy D. Nelson, FOFS President
Invocation & Official City Welcome

9:15am - 10:00am Going Underground: Uncovering Underground Railroad Agents and Abolitionists with Very Little Information
by local historian, Carey Steele

10:15am - 11:00am John Brown Archeological Dig in PA by Cleveland State University

11:15am - 12:00pm Researching the UGRR of Hanging Rock by Dr. David Lucas and students of Ohio University Southern Campus, Ironton, OH

12:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch on your own at area restaurants

1:30pm - 4:30pm Local bus tour of Underground Railroad sites

Western Reserve Academy
John Brown House
David Hudson House
Elizur Wright House
Case-Barlow Farm

4:30pm - 6:30pm Free time

6:45pm - 7:45pm Dinner at the Library

8:00pm - 8:30pm “But with Blood, John Brown’s Last Night” Historical Portrayal
by Neil Thackenberg

8:30pm - 9:00pm Recognition & Awards Ceremony
Outstanding Contributions to the UGRR
Ohio UGRR “Conductor of the Year”
Reflections by John Mattox, FOFS Historian

Adjourn

150th Anniversary



Program Descriptions

Going Underground: Uncovering Underground Railroad Agents and Abolitionists with Very Little Information

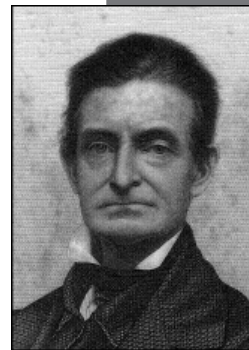
How do you research the anti-slavery past of a person or a structure when you have only a name or oral tradition? How do you take one clue and turn it into a treasure trove of information? Local historian Carey Steele will discuss recently discovered and untapped resources from the Southern Portage/Northern Stark area to demonstrate how to maximize what little information you have to uncover evidence of potential abolitionists and underground railroad agents.

John Brown Archeological Dig in PA

Mallory Haas of Cuyahoga Community College has been awarded the national Student Academic Excellence Award by The Society for Anthropology in Community Colleges (SACC), a section of the American Anthropological Association. The award was announced on February 26 2009 by SACC leaders in recognition of her outstanding research work, professional presentations and papers on historically significant pre-Civil War archaeological sites in the Cleveland area and in Western Pennsylvania.

Her most recent work cited was done at the John Brown tannery in Crawford County, PA. She is now investigating other sites related to John Brown and his family in Hudson, Ohio as part of an expansion of the Field Research Program of the Center for Community Research (CCR) of Tri-C. Located near Meadville, PA., the tannery was home for eight years to John Brown, the well-known abolitionist who led the unsuccessful raid on Harper's Ferry, VA. in 1859. His raid helped raise public sentiment for the anti-slavery movement which eventually led to the Civil War.

Haas will review and share her research as well as talk of forthcoming research to be done at the John Brown Tannery House in Hudson, Ohio (photo on program cover). Her Professors Elizabeth Hoag and/or Dr. Mark Lewine will also be in attendance.



Researching the UGRR of Hanging Rock

In a qualitative research project extending over two years in the communities of Blackfork and Poke Patch, Ohio, undergraduate researchers led by Dr. David M. Lucas from Ohio University Southern discovered a long lost geographic structure

significant to the Underground Railroad and the cultural realities of Southern Ohio. The rock edifice, known as The Window Rock House by the locals, served as a safe haven for escaping refugees from the tyranny of slavery. Using folkography as the research method, researchers interviewed hundreds of previous and present residents of the region, documenting the activities and stories of the unique culture of the area. In this paper, Dr. Lucas reveals the striking features of the Window Rock and the evidences remaining that point to a poignant time period when oppressed people searched for hope, a future and freedom.



But with Blood, John Brown's Last Night

In 1859, seventeen months before the cannons fired on Fort Sumpter, John Brown was executed for killing three white men and one negro, and for treason against the state of Virginia. Severely wounded in the raid on Harper's Ferry – the same raid in which two of his sons were killed – he was placed on trial and condemned to death within six weeks. After his capture, during his trial, and during the weeks before his execution he kept up a constant stream of communication through letters and the press, justifying his role in, what would come to be recognized as the start of the Civil War. We see him on the night before his death as he says good-bye to his wife, chats with his jailer, and prays to God and reflects on his abolitionist beliefs and the Underground Railroad.

How did a Hudson farmer, shepherd, and tanner come to this moment in American history?

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2009 Summit Committee

Cathy D. Nelson, Chair

Gwen Mayer, Co-chair

Marla Jones

Eustace Matthews



The Friends of Freedom Society, Inc. is a grassroots, all volunteer non-profit organization, whose sole purpose is to research, identify, document and preserve Underground Railroad sites throughout Ohio.

Mission Statement

The Friends of Freedom Society’s mission is to raise public awareness about the lives of enslaved African Americans related to the Underground Railroad Movement. To preserve and commemorate the cultural landscape, and its connections to the lives of the people associated with the Underground Railroad story. To document the past events of the Underground Railroad as the first civil rights movement in America.

Friends of Freedom Society Inc. Officers

Cathy D. Nelson, Founder President Emeritus

Eustace Matthews, Vice-President

Marla Jones, Treasurer

Monique Mapp, Secretary

John Mattox, Historian

For more information:

Friends of Freedom Society Inc.

P.O. Box 360661

Columbus, OH 43236

Phone: 614-868-1246

www.OhioUndergroundRailroad.org

The Thirteenth
Ohio Underground Railroad Summit
Registration Form

- 1) Please fill out this form and mail a copy to us along with your payment.
- 2) Keep a copy of this registration form for your records.
- 3) This is a pre-registered conference. NO on-site registration is permitted.
- 4) All prices are per person.
- 5) The pre-registration deadline is September 25.
- 6) No refunds will be given after October 2.

Mail registration with check/money order payable to:

Friends of Freedom Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 360661
Columbus, OH 43236
Phone: 614-868-1246

___ Please register me for the full summit (\$75)
Includes Friday reception, Saturday sessions, evening program.

___ Please register me for the Saturday Evening Awards Program with dinner (\$20).

Name/Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

No. Attending _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Official Summit Hotel - call to make reservations



Clarion Inn & Conference Center, Hudson
240 E. Hines Hill Rd.
Hudson, OH 44236
Ph 330-653-9191

Summit Rate is \$72.00