

July 2007

Freedom Seekers

The Friends of Freedom Society-Ohio Underground Railroad Association



Volume 2 Issue 1

Shawnee State University to Host 2007 Summit

The eleventh annual Underground Railroad Summit is slated for October 19-20 in Portsmouth, Ohio., on the campus of Shawnee State University. The theme of the Summit is : The Crossing: The Ohio River Corridor. Registration for the entire Summit is \$80.00 and \$25.00 for those who wish to attend the banquet only.

Nationally acclaimed author, Jacqueline Tobin will present her new book Between Midnight and Dawn at the banquet which will be held in the Verne Riffe Center for the Arts on the Shawnee State-Campus.



Other speakers and their topics include: John Mattox , UGRR Museum Flushing, Ohio, "I've Been Here a Long Time"; Ralph

Alexander, Batavia, Ohio, "Tranquility: John T. Wilson"; John Ogden, Alexandria, Virginia, "The Steel Family: Abolitionist"; Anthony Gibbs, Columbus, Ohio "John Parker"; Cathy Nelson, OURA Coordinator, and Jack Marchbanks, ODOT, " The River to Lake Trail"; and Dr. Andrew Feight, Shawnee State University, "Joe Logan: Runaway Slave."

Located conveniently a few blocks from the Shawnee Campus, the Ramada Inn of Portsmouth is the host hotel. Cost of the room is \$66.00 per day and includes breakfast. Call 740-354-7711 and use P52532 as the code to secure your rooms.

To register for the summit use the online registration or contact Cathy Nelson at 614-868-1246.

Ada Adams Receives Prestigious Award

Ada Adams, president of the Multicultural Center at Chesterhill, Ohio was awarded the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) President's Award at the annual conference held in Columbus, Ohio this past May. She was cited for her research, documentation and dissemination of the rich history of the multicultural people of the

Ohio River Valley.

The MAC is the nation's largest regional professional association for archivists. The organization seeks to promote cooperation and exchange of information among individuals and institutions interested in preservation of archival material.

Friends of Freedom Members are Busy People

Between January and April, OURA Coordinator, Cathy Nelson presented programs at the following places: Everoll Heritage Center in Westerville, The Alliance Presbyterian Church, The Bethel Presbyterian Church, Columbus, The Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Columbus, Perry High School, Perry County ,Ohio, Salem Founder's Day, Salem, Ohio and Women's Transportation Luncheon in Worthington. Cathy will be conducting an Underground Railroad Symposium through the University of Rio Grande in July and has been selected to participate in the "Race and Place: African Americans in Washington DC 1840-1920" Cultural Workshop.



John Ogden spoke at the Multicultural Genealogical Society in June. His topic was "The Steel Family of Monroe County." John has done extensive research on the Steel families in southern Ohio.

Terri Blake is working with a group from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland that seeks to document URR sites in northeastern Ohio.

New FOFS member Tony Gibbs has presented his first person account of John Parker, a conductor from Ripley, Ohio to several groups this spring.

Matt Matthews and Beverly Gray have been securing speakers and solidifying programming for the 2007 Summit. Matt is the liaison between FOFS and Shawnee State University where the Summit will be held. Beverly recently presented a paper to Monticello historians in Charlottesville, Virginia titled "Connections," and attended the "Living Legacy" Conference at Montpelier, Virginia where the guest speaker was author, John Hope Franklin.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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A Neat Place to Visit

High gas prices have greatly curtailed travel in recent months. However, a wonderful day trip for most Ohioans would be to Flushing, Ohio and the Underground Railroad Museum, where John Mattox is the director.

In addition to John's inspiring presentation, the visitor will experience many exhibits in-

clude two floors of artifacts, books, documents, a replica of a hiding place, a slave cabin and much, much more.

The museum is located at 121 High Street in Flushing. Take a virtual tour at www.ugrrf.org or plan a trip to this fascinating museum.

Black Historic Impressions: Making History Come Alive for Students Everywhere!

Anthony Gibbs is the owner and presenter of Black Historic Impressions (BHI). BHI is an organization dedicated to the remembrance, appreciation, and exhibition of African American contributions throughout history. BHI seeks to build knowledge by teaching nuggets of history from the past that give relevant, valuable insights into the present and the future. Mr. Gibbs is an established history interpreter and storyteller who has taught and presented many history programs and character impressions for students of all ages. Mr. Gibbs has traveled across the state of Ohio doing various history programs. He studied at the Ohio State University in the field of history and has presented many programs for the Ohio Historical Society. The historical perspective he exhibits recognizes the diverse legacy of all the many cultures wrapped in the history of the U.S. The stories he present are tales of great courage, tireless determination, and long lasting hope. His history program *The Promised Land: John Parker and the Underground Railroad* is a dramatic portrayal of John Parker's life and work on the Underground Railroad. Travel back in time and experience the important abolitionist movement and struggle for freedom within the Underground Railroad. Meet John Parker, ex-slave, inventor, entrepreneur, and conductor of the Underground railroad. Learn all about the songs, signs, and dangers of escaping the "wretched" institution of slavery. John Parker will have audiences on the edge of their seats as he recalls his experiences helping hundreds of enslaved men, women, and children cross the Ohio River into a new life of freedom. John Parker tells his story to convince the audience to help the abolitionist movement, and then returns to the present to discuss the legacy of the Underground Railroad. You can contact Anthony Gibbs through e-mail (thistory562@yahoo.com), or by phone (614-231-7484).



FRIENDS OF FREEDOM MARKERS



The FOFS marking program is alive and well! Approximately 200 flags been distributed to URR sites and 40 markers have been erected across the state of Ohio to date. However, two more markers are slated to be erected in this calendar year.

The Second Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio will dedicate a marker in September and a marker will be erected in Pike County south of Waverly in late summer.

Dedication information will be announced at a later date.

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This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a list-

ing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.