

FREEDOM SEEKERS

Volume 3 Issue 3

WINTER 2008

BJ Gray, Editor

FRIENDS OF FREEDOM SOCIETY/ OHIO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

2009 Fall Tour

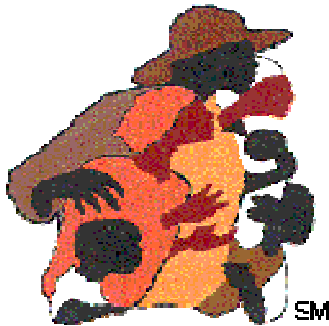
Over thirty passengers went on the Freedom Seekers Underground Railroad Tour on October 18, 2008 to Ripley, Ohio and Old Washington, Kentucky. We visited the John P. Parker House, former slave, UGRR conductor and entrepreneur; the Rev. John Rankin House, the staunch Presbyterian minister who aided over 3,000 runaways and a great driving tour of

other Ripley UGRR sites where local historian, Betty Campbell served as our tour guide. After a scrumptious lunch at DeSha's Restaurant in Maysville, Kentucky, we visited sites in Old Washington, Kentucky. There, we toured the Harriet Beecher Stowe Museum, formerly a home of a family who purchased slaves. We visited the Old Courthouse site where slave auctions took place. It was here where Harriet Beecher Stowe witnessed her first slave auction, which prompted her to write Uncle Tom's Cabin.

As we walked up and down the old stone streets, we saw the Old Methodist Church of the South where slaves worshipped and hid in its rafters, and the Paxton Inn, where runaways supposed where hidden in a small room off of the stairwell. FOFS president, Cathy Nelson pointed out a former plantation in walking distance of the major thoroughfare off of Green Street.

A good day was had by all and the weather was wonderful too!

Cathy Nelson



2009 memberships are due by January 31, 2009

FOFS dues are \$35.00 for the current calendar year.

Send membership fee to: FOFS, Inc

P O Box 360661

Columbus, Oh 43236

Attention: Marla Jones



Quilt display at Parker House

UGRR station



Steps and view of Ohio River from the Rankin House

**Fall Tour
Photos**

Photos Courtesy Of Ada Adams



Old Washington, Kentucky



Rankin House Ripley, Ohio

Help Needed

It is time to plan the 2009 Summit, but committee members are needed. If you are willing to take on this task, please call Cathy Nelson at 614-868-1246, ASAP!

Columbus Senior group plan Underground Railroad Tour for mid-summer.

See the insert for details or contact : : **Gloria M. Woods**

2237 Koebel Road

Columbus OH 43207

Ph: 614- 443-6775

gwoods@columbus.rr.com

Ancestor of Art Thomas Honored in California

Cousins Norman K. Adams, Jr. & Art Thomas submitted applications and have been accepted into the Sacramento, CA Society of California Pioneers.

They submitted the name of their 2nd great-grandfather, William Francis Adams, Sr. the first child and oldest son of Lewis & Susan Adams, born 1817 in Urbana, OH. William had reportedly gone to California in the late 1850's as the driver of a wagon in a wagon train.

To become members of the Society proof was required to show that William Adams was a resident of California prior to 10 May 1869 when the trans-continental railroad was completed making travel to California less dangerous. And that we (Norman & Art), were indeed descendants of William Francis Adams.

Documentation included records from the 1861 & 1868 Sacramento City Directories reflecting Adams presence at the Golden Eagle Hotel as a "job waggoner".

Newspaper articles from the Sacramento Daily Union (1869) with Adams shown on the Sacramento City Tax List. The 1864 Estate Settlement papers filed in Champaign Co., OH which stated "William Adams of California paid \$3,000 cash in hand" to his siblings for their share of the Lewis Adams property located in Concord Twp., Champaign County, OH.

Other documentation showed William Adams on the 1870 Federal Census living in the 2nd Ward of Sacramento, his death notice 27 Aug 1871 in the Sacramento Bee, his funeral notice, service at the Shiloh Baptist Church and burial site

record in New Helvetia Cemetery.

Thanks to AAGGMV member Peggy Allen who resides in the Sacramento area we have photos of the re-internment burial site of William Adams in the East Lawn Memorial Cemetery in Sacramento. William Carson, a genealogy friend from Los Angeles, CA sent us the photocopies of the pages found in the 1861 & 1868 Sacramento City Directory from the LA Public Library. Mrs. Mary Thames of Scaramento, another genealogy friend furnished the death notice and initial burial information on William Adams.

We have now confirmed the story of William Adams getting to and living in California. We are still searching for the "wagon train" information. Patience, Perverserance and Persistence has brought us this far and we KNOW that information will be forthcoming

—————Art Thomas.

More Tour Photos



Cathy Nelson and Betty Campbell at the Parker House



Parker House –side view

T. W. Kirkpatrick has retired from the firm of T. W. Kirkpatrick & Co., and the business will be carried on by J. P. Parker, as the "Model Mills." Mr. Kirkpatrick will remain in the employ of the Mills, and they will still make flour equal to any in the country.