

North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association
P.O. Box 2413 - Plattsburgh, New York 12901 (518) 561-0277 -NCUGRHA@aol.com

Canadians to Share History of Blacks in Montreal and Quebec

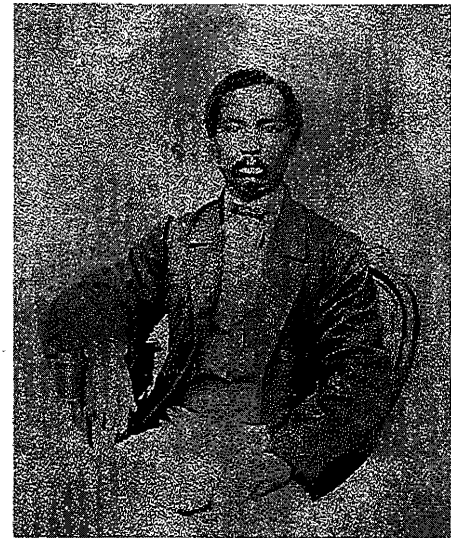
The Center for the Study of Canada/Institute on Quebec Studies at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh and the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association are bringing three distinguished authors to the University on September 19th for a panel discussion focusing on the history of "Blacks in Montreal and Quebec." The event will be held from 3:30-5 PM in the Angell College Center's Alumni Room with a reception following the event.

Denyse Beaugrand-Champagne is the author of *Le proces de Marie-Joséphé-Angélique*. This in-depth 2004 study of the archival records of the trial of a young slave woman from Portugal casts doubt upon the verdict. Marie-Joséphé was the property of the Poulin de Francheville family and nicknamed Angélique. In the spring of 1734, she was accused of starting a fire which destroyed Hotel Dieu hospital and 45 houses on French Colonial Montreal's rue Saint-Paul. Her ex convict white lover, Claude Thibault, was also charged with the crime, but he absconded. Angélique was tortured until she confessed. After she was hanged in the street, her body was burned in a bonfire. *Le Proces* raises serious questions about her conviction and brutal death.

Ms. Beaugrand-Champagne, who has written extensively on French-Canadian history, is currently the Reference Archivist at the Montreal Center of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec.

Frank Mackey is author of *Steamboat Connections: Montreal to Upper Canada 1816-1843*, a study of the first steamboats which plied west from Montreal, as well as *Black Then: Blacks and Montreal 1780s-1880s*. A copy editor for The Montreal Gazette, Mr. Mackey has been a journalist in Alberta, Newfoundland, Quebec and London, England. He has a university degree from Loyola College / Université de Montréal.

Dr. Dorothy Williams focuses on the unknown history of her native Montreal. She founded Ethnocultural Diffusions to collect the oral history of Blacks in the city and is the author of *Blacks in Montreal: 1628-1986: An Urban Demography*, and *The Road to Now: a History of Blacks in Montreal*, the only chrono-



Montreal Barber George Edward Jones in 1868. Descendants proudly say he led Texas freedom seeker Lavinia Bell from Rouses Point, New York, to Montreal in 1861. Mrs. Bell's moving story is featured in our DVD "Northward to Freedom." Photo provided by great grand nephew Robert William (Bud) Jones.

logical study of the Black citizens of Canada's second largest city. Dr. Williams has a Masters in History, and a doctorate in Library and Information Studies from McGill University. Her research focuses on the creation of popular reference materials about Black history in Canada.

The expertise of our panelists covers three eras of Quebec history: the Colonial slave period; the 19th century when Montreal was a refuge for fugitive slaves from the United States; the 20th century when the city welcomed thousands of Black immigrants from former French Colonies.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served. Books by the panelists will be available for purchase.

October Lecture

NCUGRHA president Don Papon has been invited to present the Karl Cron Lecture for the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh. His October 18th presentation will begin at 8 pm in the Angel College Center's Alumni Conference Room. Don will speak on the religious roots of the Underground Railroad. The annual Karl Cron Lecture Series on religious studies is part of Plattsburgh State's College/Community Scholars Series. Named in memory of Rev. Karl Cron who founded the campus ministry in 1973, the series is sponsored by the ecumenical Protestant Campus Ministry and its supporting churches.

This is a Special Two Season Issue



Meeting at the AuSable Valley Grange Hall.



Laura Sells Doyle and Marjorie Light receive their Lantern Light Awards. Photos by Mitchell Ray

Our First Annual Meeting Filled the House

The old stone Ausable Valley Grange Hall in Keeseville was a perfect setting for our first Annual Meeting in June. Before the building became the home of Grange No. 973 which is still active after 90 years, it was a place where French Canadian women packed horse nails into pine boxes. Entering the 1856 vintage building, one felt transported back to another time.

In 1856, the anti-slavery movement was bringing things to a head. Keeseville had been a center of abolitionist fervor, but was now in conflict. Garrisonian abolitionists were not welcome: Garrison was calling for the North to disunite from the South. A leading republican in the prosperous industrial village declared that "if he could manage matters to his liking, he would make the Disunion movement treason, and would HANG every Disunionist!" Aaron M. Powell reported on a December visit to the village in Garrison's *The Liberator*. When he and the well known Black abolitionist from Massachusetts, Charles Lenox Remond, and his sister Sarah Parker Remond, had attempted to speak in Keeseville, "no suitable place could be found."

Powell and the Remonds retreated to a more inviting place--the nearby Quaker Union in Peru. There they enjoyed the hospitality of UGRR agents Samuel Keese, his wife Catherine, and their nephew Stephen Keese Smith. Soon Susan B. Anthony joined them.

Powell concluded,

Keeseville has an extensive interest in the iron trade. Its religion, its politics, its heart, if it has any, all would seem to be very much of the nature of the hard substance which constitutes the bulk of their commercial interest. Though almost in sight of Canada, its moral atmosphere, in relation to slavery, is not very unlike that of South Carolina. Its Churches are closed against the slave.

These harsh words expressed Powell's anger and disappointment more than the truth. There was another side of Keeseville Powell did not experience, and that is the side we

celebrated.

We were greeted at the door by Mrs. Maria Haynes (portrayed by Robin Caudell). One of the last women freed in Plattsburgh, Mrs. Haynes was a devout Methodist who removed her membership from Plattsburgh to Keeseville in 1839. The Hall with its old plank floors, deep set windows, and antique wooden chairs was festively adorned with vases of large peony blooms. NCUGRHA and Grange member Steve Engelhart had brought from his yard just up the hill. The large room filled, and we were inspired as we listened to Mrs. Haynes, Frederick Douglass who visited the village in 1843, and the Rev. John Mattocks who was pastor of the abolitionist Congregational Church across the street. A man and a woman who had been enslaved in Plattsburgh were members of his congregation. According to oral tradition, a basement passageway led from the church to the Austin Bigelow House where fugitive slaves were hidden.

Inspired by the past, we sang liberty songs. We applauded as Marjorie Light and Laura Sells Doyle received Lantern Light Awards for their outstanding contributions to preserving and interpreting our Underground Railroad history. Marjorie wrote the script for our "Northward to Freedom" DVD; Laura created a photographic exhibit for us of safe houses in our six county region. In keeping with our motto, "Lighting Freedom's Road, each received a beautiful hand-crafted lantern. We heard President Don Papson report on our many achievements. He predicted that the next year will be an exciting one as we create exhibits for the Estes House UGRR Heritage Center which the Town of Chesterfield would like to see open by next year.

The hearts of abolitionists were stirred in Keeseville when they challenged the conscience of our nation, and our hearts were stirred, during this, our first annual meeting. As our gathering came to a close, Marilyn Van Dyke who had driven up from Warren County, gave a shout-- "May there be many more!"

Book Review

Abel Brown, Abolitionist

By Catharine S. Brown Edited by Tom Calarco
ISBN 0-7864-2378-1
illustrations, appendices, notes, index
238pp. softcover 2006 \$35

Tom Calarco's latest contribution to Abolitionist history provides a rare glimpse into how Black and White New Yorkers collaborated in the anti-slavery movement and assisted freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad. Based on the writings of the White Baptist abolitionist martyr, Rev. Abel Brown, this carefully edited version of his widow Catherine's original 1849 memoir clarifies and amplifies the original. An uncompromising and provocative voice against slavery, Brown was threatened by mobs more than once. He published letters and reports in *The Liberator* and other abolitionist periodicals, as well as in his own paper, *The Tocsin of Liberty* (later *The Albany Patriot*). As Corresponding Secretary and general agent of the Eastern New York Anti-Slavery Society, which he founded in Albany in 1842, he traveled widely, preaching the abolition message. He often shared the stage with his wife who lifted her voice in anti-slavery songs. Sometimes fugitive slave Lewis Washington accompanied him.

Rev. Brown is said to have helped 1,000 freedom seekers. Some were forwarded to him from New York City by Rev. Charles Ray. From Troy, the fugitives went on to Canada via Lake Ontario or Lake Champlain.

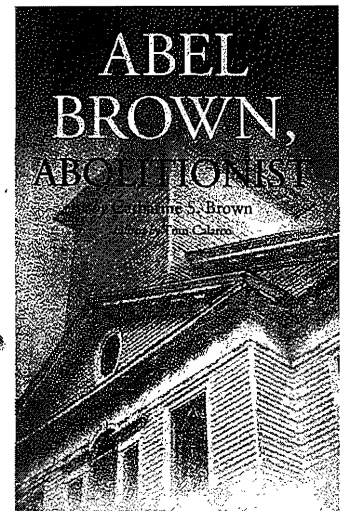
During a lecture tour in Western New York, Brown was caught in a snowstorm. He stopped at a home and asked to be put up for the night, but was turned away. By the time he reached Canandaigua, he was seriously ill. His death one day before his 34th birthday was a terrible blow. The "colored citizens of Canandaigua" expressed their "profound respect and love for him" and their "deep and pungent grief." In Troy, the Rev. Henry Highland Garnet gave an eloquent eulogy. Abel's death was devastating for Catherine, his young wife of eighteen months, who published this biography as a way of keeping his memory alive. The work draws heavily on his correspondence, journals, and newspaper articles, allowing him to tell the story in his own words. Appendices contain excerpts from additional correspondence and sermons.

Except for an etching which does not show his features, there is no known image of Rev. Brown. However, we do have a very determined looking image of Catherine. Ten years after Rev. Brown's death, Catherine married the "Prisoner's Friend," Rev. Charles Spear, and joined his fight to reform prisons and abolish capital punishment.

Tom Calarco, a professional writer and researcher from Schenectady, New York, currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio. He previously published The Underground Railroad Conductor (2003) and The Underground Railroad in the Adirondack Region (2004).



Catherine S. Brown Spear



Grant Updates

The Essex County Historical Society has been awarded a \$25,000 Heritage New York grant for the creation of "Onward! Your Country to Save!" This special exhibit will highlight the call for immediate emancipation which divided our churches and caused separations among Quakers, Methodists, and Presbyterians.

"Onward! Your Country to Save!" will be a featured display at the Estes House Underground Railroad Heritage Center.

The Town of Chesterfield, which has received a grant to renovate the Estes House, is seeking additional funds for the project.

The Northern New York Library Network has awarded NCUGRHA a copy of the Past Perfect Software for Museum Collections. Past Perfect is the most widely used museum software in the world. In his approval of this award, Executive Director John Hammond noted, "Your progress to date is admirable and we congratulate you on your accomplishments."

Teaching Materials Available

The Warren County Historical Society has developed two curriculum kits for distribution to local schools. The kits contain teacher aids and teaching materials designed to give students in middle schools a look at the Underground Railroad. They include songs, games, vocabulary, maps, photos, books, and dress up clothing for runaway portrayals.

Arrangements can be made for the society's Education Chair to visit a school in costume and conduct lessons with the materials. For further information, contact mail@warrencountyhistoricalsociety.org

Northward to Freedom DVD

Our moving 12 minute DVD "Northward to Freedom" is available for \$16.50 (tax included; \$1.50 for postage and handling). Mail your order to NCUGRHA P.O. Box 2413, Plattsburgh, New York 12901. Copies may be purchased for \$15 from the Cornerstone Bookstore and Borders in Plattsburgh. The DVD can also be rented from the Under One Roof Video Store. To arrange for broadcast rights, please visit the Agency for Instructional Technology's website at www.asit.net

Teachers may request a copy of our Document Based Questions on regional UGRR history.



One Story at a Time

This, our first museum exhibit, presents the North Country's Underground Railroad history told *One Story at a Time*. On view are photographs of 17 buildings in six North Country counties. Tales of abolitionists and fugitive slaves associated with each county are placed alongside the pictures to explain the "compelling significance of these simple, clean images."* Our DVD, *Northward to Freedom* provides the larger context for the exhibit. *One Story at a Time* is currently featured at the Adirondack History Museum in Elizabethtown.

Laura Sells-Doyles' beautiful photographs represent the beginning of a co-operative, regional effort to document North Country Underground Railroad activism. Enthusiastic residents from Washington, Saratoga, Warren, Essex, Clinton, and Franklin County helped Laura locate the buildings so she could showcase our regional Underground Railroad history. Her haunting images are of documented "safe houses" where freedom seekers were sheltered on their way to Canada; sites of anti-slavery meetings; homes of abolitionists. Stories in the exhibit speak for our silent ancestors who struggled for justice and freedom. When *One Story at a Time* is installed in the Estes House at Ausable Chasm, it will reveal our history to thousands of visitors. A compelling reminder of our past, it will inspire our future.

*From an article in the July 15th *Lake Placid News* by Lee Manchester.

State to Restore

Susan B. Anthony Childhood Home

The North Star Historical Project is pleased to announce that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has accepted the donation of the Battenville, New York childhood home of Susan B. Anthony from the Freddie Mac Mortgage Corporation. After a January foreclosure, the property was put on the market, but it did not sell. North Star President Debi Craig and members of her Washington County based organization initiated a campaign to save the house. With the bi-partisan support of State Assemblymen Steve Engelbright (D) from the 4th District and Roy McDonald (R) from the 112th District, they have succeeded.

The Daniel Anthony home could become an excellent museum or educational center. Circumstantial evidence suggests that Mr. Anthony may have been involved in the UGRR in Battenville as a space in the home appears to have been a hiding place. Mr. Anthony was a friend of one of the leading members of the Eastern New York Anti-Slavery Society: Dr. Hiram Corliss of Greenwich. Dr. Corliss hid many fugitive slaves in his home just four miles from the Anthony home. Freedom seekers could have easily made it their next stop. Mr. Anthony was a member of the North Easton Quaker Friends' Meeting as were Joe and Esther Wilbur who are known to have hidden runaways. Their Meeting House had a strong anti-slavery sentiment; Sojourner Truth visited many times.

Debi Craig envisions a Susan B. Anthony trail beginning at her birthplace in Adams, Massachusetts and continuing to several stops in New York: her childhood home in Battenville; Johnstown where her suffragist ally Elizabeth Cady Stanton was



Susan B. Anthony

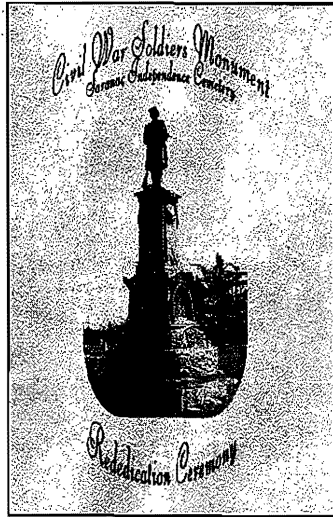
raised; Canajoharie where Ms. Anthony worked as a teacher; the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, and finally, Ms. Anthony's Rochester home.

Susan B. Anthony returned to the Adirondacks many times to speak on temperance, abolition, and the right of women to vote. Saving her childhood home is a tremendous achievement.

Steering Committee Member Honored

City of Plattsburgh Historian and NCUGRHA Steering Committee member, Jim Bailey, received the Clinton County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award at its Annual Law Day celebration on May 1st. Jim was honored for his many years of service to the community. Liberty is in Jim's blood: he hails from an old Essex County abolitionist family.

Saranac Civil War Monument Rededicated



Just as the citizens of the Town of Saranac came together on May 30, 1888 for a patriotic celebration to dedicate a Monument to honor its Civil War veterans, so did its citizens come together on May 28, 2006 to rededicate the restored monument. The American Soldier, as it came to be called, stood the test of time well, but over the years its weight (estimated at 600 to 1,000 pounds) caused the lower sections to bow outward. Extreme winter tem-

peratures caused the monument to expand and contract, and large cracks formed in the zinc (white bronze) base.

About six years ago, Town Historian Jan Couture initiated a restoration drive. The final estimate was \$60,000. The first donation of \$50 came from an eight year old boy who held a bake sale. T-Shirts and calendars were sold, but the project remained out of reach. Then, retired New York State Electric & Gas Corporation lineman John Rock came on board. Rock used an aluminum infrastructure to support the soldier; the entire monument was sand washed; a new granite base was carved. The final price tag: about \$15,000. Now, the Saranac Soldier stands as gloriously as he did in the spring of 1888.

The memorial is one of only two white zinc Civil War monuments in Clinton county.

The May rededication ceremony was a fitting tribute to the men the Saranac Soldier symbolizes. The town sent three and a half times its draft quota to the Union Army--416 men from a population of about 3,600--more soldiers per capita than any municipality in the entire state. Seventy-two died in battle, in prison or from disease.

The restored Saranac Soldier Monument is an impressive example of what a dedicated Town Historian can inspire a community to accomplish.

Lincoln Avengers From the Adirondacks

John Millington, a native of Chestertown, Warren County, New York, was on guard on the morning of April 15, 1865 when news came that the President had been shot at Ford's theatre. "We were ordered to form part of a cordon to prevent the assassin from escaping. Our company was deployed through the brush. It was a chilly day and a cold rain was falling. A few days later we were ordered to Washington, where we served as an escort at Lincoln's funeral."

Patrols were organized to search for the accused assassin, John Wilkes Booth. The one credited with his capture was formed from the Sixteenth New York Cavalry. Ten of its twenty-six enlisted men were from the Adirondacks. They represented four counties--Clinton, Essex, St. Lawrence and Warren. Six of the men were from Saranac Hollow, and three of

them--Martin Kelly, Abram Snay, and Phillip Hoyt-- attended the 1888 dedication of the Soldier's Memorial in the Saranac Independence Cemetery.

On April 24, 1865, Canadian born 1st Lt. Edward P. Doherty received orders to organize the patrol. At least two others had already been sent out, but Doherty's would be forever known as the "Lincoln's Avengers." Pvt. Millington was eating when "boots and saddles" was sounded. Clinton County native Pvt. David Baker would act as the Lieutenant's orderly. With the help of two detectives named Conger and Baker, Doherty tracked Booth to the Richard Henry Garrett farm in Caroline County, Virginia. Pvt. Hoyt guarded the Garretts. Pvt. Emory Parady of Elizabethtown heard suspicious noises in a barn. Pvt. Snay arrested the Garrett's son, Jack, and turned him over to Corp. Oliver Lonkey of St. Lawrence County. When Garrett was taken to Lt. Doherty, he admitted that Booth was in the barn. Doherty ordered Booth to "Come out at once." He refused. Sgt. Boston Corbett asked permission to go in after him, alone; Doherty denied the request. Booth was defiant. Doherty and his men threatened to burn him out. Booth said someone was with him who wanted to surrender "awful bad." This was David E. Herold.

Doherty ordered Garrett to unlock the barn door. Then Doherty opened it part way and ordered Herold to put his hands out. Just as he took hold of Herold's wrists, detective Conger ignited loose straw in a crack in the wall. Sgt. Corbett thought he saw Booth move toward the door, took aim with his carbine, and wounded Booth in the neck. Ironically, President Lincoln had also been shot in the neck. As Doherty pulled Herold out of the barn, he saw Booth lying on his back. Finding a rope, he tied Herold to a locust tree and ordered Pvt. Millington to guard him. Other men in the patrol helped the detectives pull Booth out of the blazing barn. According to Pvt. Millington, "Booth's body, wrapped in a government blanket, was placed in a wagon, which was driven by a Negro."

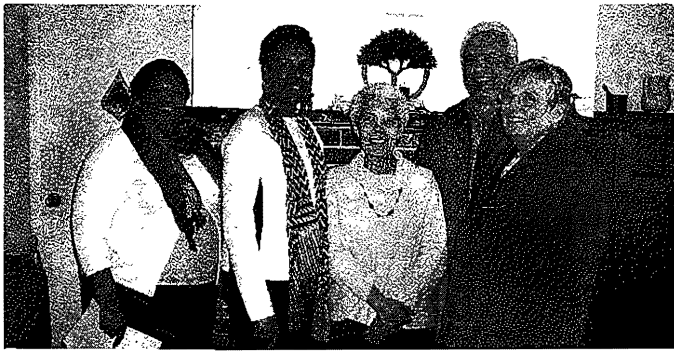
Within hours, Lincoln's assassin was dead....

Or was he? When Pvt. Millington questioned Herold, he replied, "Booth told me, when he asked me to help him, that he was going to kidnap Lincoln; he didn't tell me he was going to kill him." Sgt. Corbett testified before a Military Tribunal that he heard Booth tell Herold, "Oh, go out and save yourself, my boy, if you can. I declare before my Maker that this man here is innocent of any crime whatever."

Some believe an unidentified man was killed at the Garrett farm. They argue that anyone who harbored the President's assassin was to be punished with death, but the Garretts were never charged with any crime.

Although there are doubts about the fate of John Wilkes Booth, we are certain of one thing: the Saranac Soldier stands proudly in memory of the Town's Civil War veterans and its Lincoln Avengers.

This account is based on "Lincoln's Avengers The Men from the Adirondacks" by Steven G. Miller published in the Official Journal of the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society Volume 7, Number 2 Whole No. 13 Fall 1990 and EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY A Cavalryman's Account of the Chase and Capture of John Wilkes Booth <http://home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln73.html>



From the left, Renee Moore, Pamela Green, Vivian Papson, Jim and Judy Stafford. Not shown, S. Booker and Don Papson

NCUGRHA Connects with Brooklyn

The NCUGRHA Steering Committee invited Weeksville Heritage Center's Executive Director Pamela Green to fly up from Brooklyn to Plattsburgh on April 8th for an informal afternoon discussion. Weeksville is a documented site on New York's Underground Railroad Heritage Trail. The Center's four restored historic houses were once part of a thriving free African American community.

Over four decades, Weeksville Heritage Center has offered tours and school programs. It now has plans to build a modern performance and education center.

Under Ms. Green's leadership, the Weeksville Heritage Center has garnered strong political and corporate support. In no uncertain terms, she shared her 3 step formula for success. Know: 1) What you are going to do. 2) How long it will take to do it. 3) How much it will cost. BUT, work within your means, and change plans if you need to. Ms. Green believes a successful organization has a clear vision, diversifies funding sources, and makes the past relevant to the present and future. Ask yourselves one question, she said, "How can you make a difference in the world?"

A firm believer in alliances, Pam Green's final admonition was to "Collaborate! Collaborate! Collaborate!"

After our discussion, Jim and Judy Stafford invited Pam to visit the Stephen Keese Smith farm in Peru where Jim was raised. Seeing the hiding place in the barn was a highlight of her trip. In fact, Pam enjoyed her first North Country visit so much she promised to return-- but not in the winter!

Pam, come back for the grand opening of the Estes House. We promise, it will be a warm occasion.



SUNY Plattsburgh EOP students enjoy our interactive reading "From Slavery to Freedom"

Letters to the Editor

I love getting your messages --you folks are going great guns! By the way, I saw the photo exhibit in Elizabethtown --very nice!

Jane Williams, Director, Rokeby Museum

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Thank you so very much for your very eye-opening & informative workshop... I heard very positive comments from many of the students who attended ... I hope we can work again together in the future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Antonucci, Events Co-ordinator
Upward Bound, State University of Plattsburgh.

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Don,

On behalf of the entire Diversity Committee, I thank you for being a guest speaker at our regional meeting.

The dedication to your cause is evident in every well-prepared minute of your presentation. I, for one, was stunned to learn there were any slaves in New York, let alone 21,000 of them! I thought slavery was a Southern issue.

We sincerely appreciate the time and effort you gave to enlighten us all, and we look forward to the opening of your museum next year.

Lorene Fortrell,

Clinton Correctional Facility

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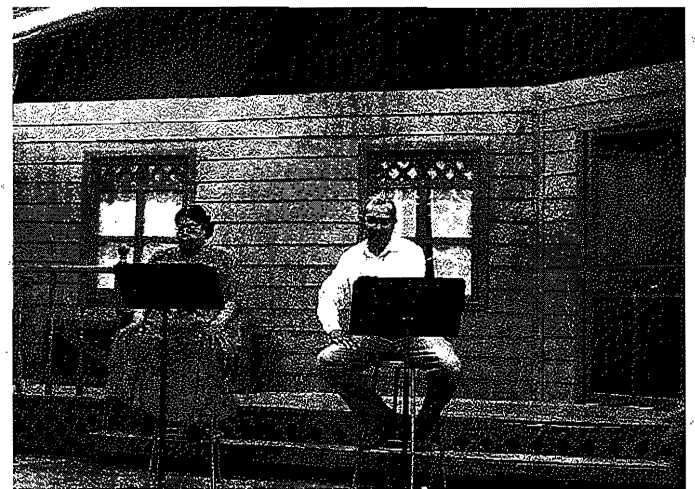
Dear Friend and Supporter,

The educational and historical information you shared made the 8th Solomon Northup Day-A Celebration of Freedom an event to remember....

Sincerely,

Renee Moore,

Founder



Wanda Webster and Clifford Oliver Mealy in a dramatic reading at Solomon Northup Day. Photo by Luke Bush

Vermont Lecture on Women Abolitionists

Historian Beth Salerno will share her extensive research on female anti-slavery societies of the 1830s to 1850s at Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburg, Vermont on September 10th at 2PM. Ms. Salerno will provide evidence that women were the backbone of the movement. She has conducted the most complete investigation of female anti-slavery societies to date and has identified several hundred. For more information, contact Museum Director, Jane Williamson at 802.877.3406 or rokeby@adelphia.net

About Rokeby

A National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, Rokeby was the home of anti-slavery Quaker Thomas Richardson Robinson and his wife, Jemima. They migrated to the Republic of Vermont from Rhode Island in 1793, two years after the Republic abolished slavery. Thomas opened saw and grist mills and set Rokeby on the path to distinction as one of the largest Merino sheep farms in the area.

The Robinsons corresponded with abolitionists at the Quaker Union in Peru, New York. They were members of its Friends' Meeting, as was Samuel Keese, head of Peru's UGRR Depot. After the Clinton County Anti-Slavery Society was organized in April of 1837, Mr. Robinson received a copy of the published proceedings which he signed. It is now at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. An extremely valuable document, it lists all of the delegates at the convention.

Thomas sent his son, Rowland, to the Quaker boarding school at Nine Partners, New York, where the Keeses and other Peru Quakers had lived before the American Revolution. While Rowland was at Nine Partners he met his future wife, Rachel Gilpin. They married in 1820 and settled at Rokeby. Rowland helped his father operate the family mills and sheep farm, but Garrisonian abolitionism and radical reform were his true calling. Like many abolitionists, he campaigned against the consumption of alcohol, but he was more than a temperance activist: he campaigned against capital punishment and investigated the best methods of pauper relief.

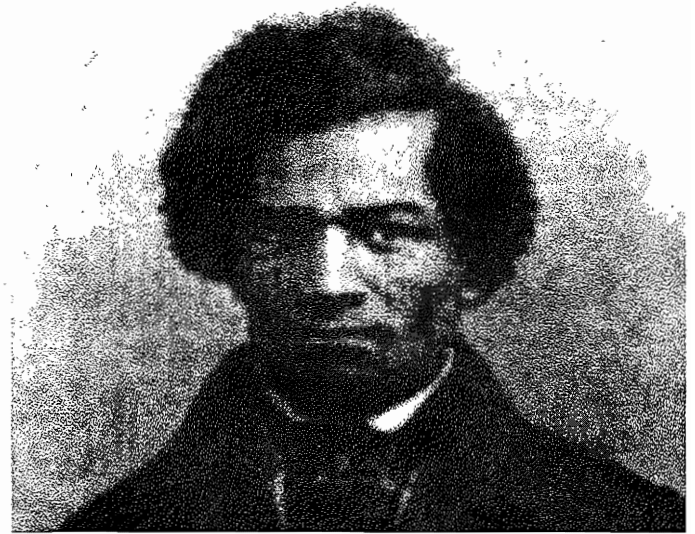
Rowland and Rachel Robinson harbored many fugitive slaves in their home, and Rokeby Museum has documentary proof of several individuals they assisted. In his 1889 recollections, Stephen Keese Smith spoke highly of Friend Robinson:

Many negroes were run up on the other side of the lake to Canada. Rowland Robinson of Ferrisburgh Vermont was the champion there. Scores of Slaves made their escape through him. He ran his negroes through Canada...

On at least one occasion, Mr. Robinson forwarded a fugitive to Charlotte, Vermont, where John McNeil and his son Charles operated the McNeil Ferry to Essex, New York.

In July of 1843, Rowland organized an abolitionist convention for Ferrisburgh, and one of the speakers was an arresting young man who had self emancipated himself from Maryland and shed his slave name which was Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. As Frederick Douglass, he would become a powerhouse of the abolitionist movement.

In Middlebury, Vermont, The Observer noted that "Mr. Douglas, the fugitive slave, is an eloquent and effective



Frederick Douglass

speaker... possessed of intellectual power." After lecturing in Vermont, Mr. Douglass traveled across Lake Champlain to speak in Keeseville. Samuel Keese never forgot that visit and recounted it in an 1855 letter to The Liberator, with these words: "our hearts were warmed and our spirits stirred." Mr. Douglass became a free man three years later when Ellen and Anna Richardson of Newcastle, England purchased his liberty for seven hundred dollars.

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From Middlebury Vermont's The Observer, Tuesday morning, July 18, 1843--
Mr. Douglas, the fugitive slave, arose and said, "I have been a slave, and am still a slave. There is not a foot of land under the stars and stripes of America where I can stand as a freeman; stand safe. 'Tis all enchanted ground. Much as you boast of your freedom and republicanism in this State, high as are your hills, deep as are your vales, there is not an inch of land in all your State where Frederick Douglas can stand safe. Slavery stretches its influence over all your land, with its beak and talons clutching the freed slave and thrusting him back to bondage.

Call for Workshop & Panel Presentation Proposals

The Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region, Inc. is soliciting brief proposals for workshop and panel presentations for its sixth annual UGRR Conference. The event will be take place at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York, February 23-25, 2007. The theme, "Discovering the Underground Railroad: Uncovering the Voices of Women," is one which has not been sufficiently addressed in the past. However, other important topics concerning Underground Railroad history will be considered. Proposals must be submitted by October 15, 2006. Financial support will be available only for presenters with particular needs.

Application specifics are on line at www.ugrworkshop.com For additional information, please contact URHPCR at 518-432-4432, PO Box 10851, Albany NY 12201 or urhpcr@localnet.com

4th of July Parade Brings Recognition

Diversity was the theme of Plattsburgh's 4th of July parade this year, and two of NCUGRHA's Steering Committee members, Vivian and Don Papson, were honored as Grand Marshals.

Vivian is the founder and past president of the Red Hummingbird Foundation (RHF) which she organized in 1999 to promote harmony among people of diverse cultures. RHF is dedicated to building community, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Vivian's husband, Don, is the founding President of the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association (NCUGRHA) which is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the North Country's slavery and anti-slavery history. Last summer, our DVD, "Northward to Freedom", was jointly produced by RHF and NCUGRHA.

Twenty members and friends of the two organizations marched in the parade. But just before it began, the clouds blessed the event with a tremendous thunderstorm. The roof of the convertible the Papsons were riding in was quickly drawn up, and, although they were kept dry, they could not be seen. This upset their long time friend Nancy Frederick who came to their home, snapped their picture and took it to the Plattsburgh Press Republican. Don and Vivian, who tend to be on the serious side, say it is one of the few pictures in which they are both smiling!



-September 19, 2006-

"Blacks in Montreal & Quebec"

**A Panel Discussion
With Three Distinguished
Canadian Authors**

**Denyse Beaugrand-Champagne
Frank Mackey
Dr. Dorothy Williams**

3:30 PM - 5 PM

**Alumni Room, Angel Center
SUNY Plattsburgh**

**Co-sponsored by
The Center for the Study of Canada
and the
North Country
Underground Railroad
Historical Association**

**North Country
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Historical Association
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Plattsburgh, New York
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