



UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FREE PRESS®

Independent reporting on today's Underground Railroad

urrFreePress.com

President Search Underway at National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

When he came to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center as its new president four years ago, Clarence G. Newsome inherited an already iconic organization that during the nine years since its founding had experienced chronic difficulty breaking even and putting itself on a stable financial footing.

As he prepares to step down as president this spring, Newsome leaves the organization with an operating surplus and a \$10 million endowment, two and a half times larger than when he arrived. During his tenure, the Center also established a number of key strategic national partnerships involving, among others, AT&T, Major League Baseball, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and uber-philanthropist David Rubenstein.

Newsome reflects that, "The opportunity to provide leadership for an organization with such a necessary, noble, and inspiring mission has been one of the joys of my career to date. The time has come for me to focus on some personal matters related to health and family. I am confident that I have provided the quality of foresight and vision that will benefit the growth and the progress of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center."

Says Center board chair Dr. Mitchel



Clarence Newsome

Livingston, "C.G. has accomplished a great deal as president. He has successfully charted a course that has helped to bring the institution a higher level of integrity and credibility. I believe his vision for the organization will leave a lasting legacy and guide the museum in continuing its winning of new partners and increasing its revenue streams and income."

Prior to coming to the Freedom Center, Dr. Newsome served as president of Shaw University, and earlier as dean of the School of Divinity at Howard University, and on the faculty of the Divinity School at Duke University, his undergraduate and graduate alma mater. At Howard, Newsome led the creation of a museum on religion in collaboration with

Please see Newsome, page 3, column 1

Annual Federal Underground Railroad Conference Set for May 18-21

To be held at new Network to Freedom home office

The annual conference of the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program is scheduled for May 18-21 at the visitor center of the recently opened Harriet Tubman National Historic Park on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The May conference will follow the academic presentation format of the

Network to Freedom's nine previous annual conferences. The 2017 conference is still in the planning stage with the Network to Freedom seeking proposals for presentations, discussion panels, and events.

The conference theme is "On the Edge of Freedom: Harriet Tubman" *Please see Conference, page 3, column 1*

IN THIS ISSUE



The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's star CEO is moving on.

1



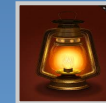
The National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom announces its 10th annual conference.

1



For nearly a month of days in a row, one can spend the night in former Underground Railroad safehouses.

2



A hard-working Maryland minister rivaled even Harriet Tubman in ushering fugitives to freedom.

2



Join us as *Underground Railroad Free Press* celebrates ten years of publication and programs with 2017 plans.

Email us at info@urrfreepress.com



There's more: the *Free Press* website offers many ways to get involved in today's Underground Railroad.

For more, visit urrfreepress.com



The Tubman Park Visitor Center

Who Knew? Twenty-six Underground Railroad Bed & Breakfast Inns

Among ways that beadandbreakfast.com categorizes its member B&Bs — kid friendly, bargains, haunted, pets OK, etc. — is by inns with Underground Railroad history. The website extols 25 former safehouses verified by intact oral or written histories. We've added one more we know of, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania's Dobbin House.

Here are the 26 listed alphabetically by state. Google to reach the website of any.

Amelia Island Williams House Fernandina Beach, Florida



The Steamboat House Galena, Illinois



The Inn at Aberdeen Valparaiso, Indiana

Mason House Inn Bentonsport, Iowa

1852 Hall Place Bed & Breakfast Glasgow, Kentucky

Bradford House B&B Patton, Maine

Cambridge House B&B

Cambridge, Maryland
Cambridge House is close to the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom conference in May. See article on page 1.

Ashley Manor on Cape Cod Barnstable, Massachusetts

Tern Inn

West Harwich, Massachusetts

Munro House B&B and Spa Jonesville, Michigan



Please see B&B, page 3, column 2

Rev. Thomas Henry, Talented Conductor and Safehouse Operator

One of an occasional series on Underground Railroad people and sites

The Underground Railroad work of Rev. Thomas Henry (1794-1877), one of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's most active and longest lived ministers, rivaled even the feats of Harriet Tubman.

Born enslaved, Thomas Henry was a self-taught literate by the time he was freed by his enslaver's will when he was 28. By age 34 he was active in Hagerstown, Maryland's integrated Methodist Episcopal Church, which he left in a racial dispute to found the town's African Methodist Episcopal parish to which he was immediately licensed as an A.M.E. minister.

Two years later in 1837, Rev Henry was appointed by the central church as a deacon, and the following year was ordained as an elder, overseeing all A.M.E. parishes in western Maryland and a portion of south-central Pennsylvania. His home parish was Hagerstown's Ebenezer Church shown here that Thomas Henry

had founded and where he was based until his organizational talents led to a succession of administrative assignments in Pennsylvania, Baltimore, and New Jersey. He specialized in parish start-ups and turning around troubled parishes.

During his time in Hagerstown, Rev. Henry put to use the dozen or so parishes under his charge as an active network of Underground Railroad safehouses. In addition to himself, ministers Daniel Coker, David Smith and William Gaines under Thomas Henry's charge were identified after the Civil War as having operated as Underground Railroad conductors and used their churches as safehouses.

When John Brown was captured at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, (now West Virginia), in his attempt to foment a slave rebellion in 1859, letters from Rev. Henry were discovered in Brown's possession, prompting Henry, in the nick of time, to



The Original Ebenezer A. M. E. Church
Hagerstown, Maryland

flee to New Jersey until 1864.

In 1872 at the age of 78, Thomas Henry published his *Autobiography of Rev. Thomas W. Henry of the A.M.E. Church*, a rare and articulate testimonial on 19th century life and its risks from the African American perspective.

Please see Rev Henry, page 3, column 3

On the Way from Underground Railroad Free Press in 2017

Free Press Prizes- Nominations are now open for the 2017 Free Press Prizes in leadership, preservation, and advancement of knowledge. To nominate yourself or someone else deserving, download nomination forms at our website.

The 2017 Survey- In late spring, you'll be invited to take part in *Free Press's* annual, one-of-a-kind survey of the Underground Railroad community.

Free Press Books- Looking for a publisher? Visit the Publish page at our website or get in touch with us at 301.874.0235 or info@urrfreepress.com.



Newsome

the Smithsonian Institution, gathering a collection valued at nearly \$3 million. He has served as past president of the Society for the Study of Black Religion, and on major committees of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Newsome earned his bachelor's degree in religious studies, master's degree in divinity, and doctorate in American religious history, all from Duke. As an undergraduate, he lettered in football as the first African American scholarship athlete to graduate from Duke, and was named to the Atlantic Coast Conference Honor Roll for outstanding academic achievement as an intercollegiate athlete. Newsome now serves as a member of the Duke University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Newsome will step down as president of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on March 31. The Center's Board of Directors has begun a national search to hire his successor.

Conference

and the Underground Railroad in the Borderlands." From the website, "The Underground Railroad as a network that traversed boundaries of communities, counties, states, territories, and nations helped shape and define these areas. The proximity of places where slavery was permitted to those where it was not presented unique opportunities and risks for escape and flight. For instance, Maryland's border with Pennsylvania, a free state, contributed to Maryland's relatively large numbers of escapes compared to slave states in the Deep South, a reality that helped facilitate Harriet Tubman's own escape and numerous rescue missions. Proximity to a free state posed obstacles as well."

Readers may download the conference's call for presentations, submission requirements, and a historical context statement at <http://bit.ly/2iRODC>.

For fine historical lodging, Cambridge House B&B, an Underground Railroad site, is nearby. See the article on page 2.

Last year, the Network to Freedom home office was moved from Omaha, Nebraska, to the Tubman Park visitor center. Dedication of the park and visitor center will be on March 11, though they have been open since last year.

B&B

Whispering Pines Bed & Breakfast
Nebraska City, Nebraska

Halcyon Farm Bed & Breakfast
Amsterdam, New York

Saratoga Farmstead B&B
Saratoga Springs, New York

1830 Hallauer House
Oberlin, Ohio

Six Acres Bed & Breakfast
Cincinnati, Ohio

Great Valley House of Valley Forge
Malvern, Pennsylvania



Speedwell Forge B&B
Lititz, Pennsylvania



Dobbin House
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Previously reviewed in *Free Press*

The Fairfield Inn
Fairfield, Pennsylvania
Previously reviewed in *Free Press*

Golden Stage Inn B&B
Proctorsville, Vermont

Hamilton House B&B
Whitewater, Wisconsin



Underground Railroad Free Press® Independent Reporting on Today's Underground Railroad

Peter H. Michael, Publisher
info@urrfreepress.com
301 | 874 | 0235

Underground Railroad Free Press serves as the nexus of the international Underground Railroad community, maintains its central registry, calendar and surveys, and publishes its free eponymous newsletter at Underground Railroad Free Press, 2455 Ballenger Creek Pike, Adamstown, Maryland, 21710.

Free Press is distributed by email. Send new subscriber email addresses and changes to the email address above. Back issues are available free at our web site.

We welcome news articles and letters to the editor. All rights to submissions including emails and letters will be treated as unconditionally assigned to *Free Press* for publication and copyright purposes, and subject to our unrestricted right to edit and comment editorially unless otherwise agreed with authors.

Free Press accepts tasteful nonpolitical advertising which we reserve the right to reject for any reason that in our sole judgment is not acceptable. Submit advertising in pdf, jpg or text formats. Visit our website for rates and layout specifications.

Contents of any *Free Press* issue are protected by copyright and may not be used in whole or part for any reason without prior approval of the publisher. *Underground Railroad Free Press* is a registered trademark.

THINGS YOU CAN DO AT FREE PRESS

Click on links at urrfreepress.com to:

Subscribe

Join the Community or View Lynx
Make a Free Press Prize Nomination
Read Underground Railroad Surveys
View or Add to Datebook
Submit News, Letters, Articles or Ads
List an Underground Railroad Site
Rate an Underground Railroad Site

Rev. Henry

The most complete source on Rev. Henry's life is Jean Libby's deeply researched *From Slavery to Salvation*, still in print. The late Ambassador Ronald Palmer of George Washington University and Professor Emeritus William Switala of Duquesne University have also written on Thomas Henry.

Thomas Henry died in 1877 as the then oldest elder of the A.M.E. Church. He is buried in the graveyard of his first charge, Ebenezer Church in Hagerstown. There is no known image of him.