

Annual Report for the 2012/2013 Annual Meeting

2012/2013 was an exciting year, but also the year that our Founder, Don Papson, decided to write his book. While he has left the office, Don is still an active member with the Association. Below are the highlights of our activities from Jun 2012 thru July 2013.

Summary of the Year's Activities:

Glenn Erb acquired a job in Canton. He worked with Bill Umbreit to save the S.K. Smith barn. Bill has taken on the lead role for the barn.

The *Press Republican* covered Bryan Thompson's opening day presentation, and we had a steady stream of visitors during Museum Days with two successful van tours and good audiences for three presentations. Barbara Wass was a perfect Catherine R. Keese.

Mountain Lake PBS TV's *Mountain Lake Journal Extra* Derek Muirden interviewed Don Papson, Bill Sackett and Mrs. Melissa Sayward and her four homeschooled children
Margaret Washington gave a presentation on, "Women's Activism in the Antebellum and Emancipation Eras.

Sherrill Wilson gave a presentation on "Celebrating Freedom." How former slaves in New York celebrated freedom from 1827 through the end of the Civil War." This was funded by the Council For Humanities and NCUGRHA funded.

Board developed a 5 year Strategic Plan that is posted on our conference room wall.

As a result of Dr. Wendy Gordon's (Assistant Professor in the History Department at SUNY Plattsburgh) visit to the museum with her daughter, the Girl Scouts honored Clinton County Female Abolitionists in the 4th of July parade.

From Here to Timbuctoo presentation explored ways romantic wilderness ideal created by poets, philosophers, and painters excluded many people and groups including African Americans.

Slavery By Another Name was a film shown and discussed. The film's theme was the convict leasing system that enslaved thousands of African Americans in the 19th and 20th century.

Held the 1st Street Drive and raised about \$1,000.00.

Museum hosted the First Annual Freedom Festival of Music, at the Ausable Chasm Pavilion, with talented local musical performers Roy Hurd, Lita Kelley, Towne Meeting and Split Rock.

Helen officially became the Manager of the North Star Museum.

Held a special Interactive tour which allowed visitors to listen to the voices of abolitionist leaders in the years before the Civil war ended the traditional form of slavery.

Don Papson, founder and President of the Association, resigned to work on his 1st book, which we are eagerly looking forward to reading. He is the Outreach Ambassador for the Association.

Rotary of Plattsburgh Noon Group held their weekly meeting at the Pavilion and many of its members toured the museum and were quiet impressed.

Membership renewal drive took place. So, please renew your membership for the next year by September.

Docent thank you day was in October and docents were treated to a visit of the Rokeby's museum in Vermont with lunch provided.

Visit by 30 students from Africa.

Visit from Amber Parliament, a travel writer, from the Philadelphia Sun Travel.

Visit by the Chazy Red Hatters.

Work begins on a traveling exhibit to display slavery in the past, present, and ways to prevent it in the future.

Donations were received for benches in honor of a Board member, who has gone to better place, Frank Kinnelly.

Don was recognized as a 2012 Free Press Prize winner. This publication recognizes individuals who have made a significant effort in promoting the significance of the Underground Railroad

Museum closed for the season after Columbia Day, although it remained open for weekends that month. Experienced at least a 25% increase in museum visitors, as more than 5,000 came to learn about the Underground Railroad in our second year.

A Fall Membership party was held for members.

The Gospel Choir from SUNY Plattsburgh held a talent showcase benefit program and donated half of the funds to the Association.

Louise Patinelli donated a painting which was raffled off and the drawing was done at the Membership celebration in October. Don won the painting.

Louise in collaboration with a member, Collen Prescott, has been translating our exhibits into French. An application to the Pomeroy Foundation requesting funding for a historic marker in recognition of the former site of Noadiah and Caroline Mattocks Moore's home in Champlain. They were abolitionist, who assisted former slaves in getting to Canada. The application was approved and the ceremony was held in Champlain on August 17.

Travel writer from American Roads magazine did an article on the museum.

The Abolitionists' map of the UGR now includes the Champlain Line.

We were awarded entry into the coveted National Underground Railroad Network of Freedom by the National Park Service, in recognition of our "significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American history."

We received donations from corporate sponsors.

Opened the museum for the Thanksgiving weekend and had over 300 visitors.

Justin Holzer, a historian who recently graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh was welcomed as an intern. He has been working on a more interactive display of the safe houses.

Opened the museum for President's weekend and had over 200 visitors.

We were visited by a student reporter, who did a story about the museum in the magazine, Do North.

Louise Patinelli donated one of her beautiful paintings, which will be raffled off at the Annual meeting.

The President gave presentations on her family history, entitled From Slavery to Citizenship.

Museum opened the first weekend of May in 2013.

Dick Gregory visited the museum and enjoyed it tremendously. Like our former President, Don, he could tell stories that you really wanted to hear.

Held the 2nd Street Drive in 2013 and was able to man all 3 areas. We raised about \$1400.00.

The museum closes at 5:00 pm, instead of 4:00 pm this year.

Mike Shubic, a travel writer, visited the museum.

Travel Writers Merle Exit and Laurie Katz came to the museum on June 12th.

The Board is participating in the TD Banks Affinity Program, which will provide additional funding for the Association.

Travel writer, David Brown, from FLW network and Outdoor Channel visited the museum.

Major revisions made to the web site to include corporate sponsors and a wish list.

2nd Annual Freedom Festival of Music was held.

Upcoming: Spring/Summer

_2014 Mosaic Summit: The Champlain Valley 1790 to 1876.

_Traveling exhibit of slavery in the past, present and how to prevent it in the future