

# President's Report for the 2022 Annual Meeting

## Summary of the Year's Activities:

The Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month except December due to the holiday. Our next meeting will be November 17 at 6:00 pm. We are still meeting via Zoom, but anticipate in person meetings in 2023.

The North Star Underground Railroad Museum opened this year on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from Memorial weekend through Columbus Day. To ensure the safety for everyone masks were recommended, but not required. Hand sanitizer was available. In addition to providing information on the exhibits to visitors, docents were responsible for the cleanliness of the museum exhibit areas. Our museum will need volunteers for the 2023 open season, as docents. If you're interested especially in history, I would encourage you to sign up by emailing us at [ugr@frontier.com](mailto:ugr@frontier.com). Training is provided.

I'm a community member of the on the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Advisory Committee which was the result of the SUNY Plattsburgh's joint Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Work.

We've received the following grants: receive \$5,000.00 from MDOCS Co-Creation Initiative grant to produce a documentary on the Haff family. This documentary tells the story of the Haff family's role as enslaver, abolitionist, and protector. In addition, the documentary will be expanded to include Stephen Keese Smith and the Quaker Union and provide some details about the Underground Railroad in the Keeseville/Peru areas; funding for the program Colors of Freedom in the Adirondacks that celebrates the Juneteenth holiday; \$5,000.00 for an intern; and \$5,000.00 for repairs to the building which included the deck, porch, entrance to the basement from the outside, and floating shelves in the kitchenette.

We received a third children's book from the Flint Hill school 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This will be the last one, as the teacher has resigned to write a book.

Don Papson, the founder, donated \$500.00 to be given to docents to offset the cost of gas. It was approved to provide gift cards of \$25.00.

The following programs were produced this year; Colors of Freedom in the Adirondacks for Juneteenth holiday, Solomon Northup Day, and Women's Equity Day.

Special tours this season included cadets from West Point with a tour of the hiding place in the barn on Stephen Keese Smith former farm, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, librarians from the Northern New York Library and Professor Mandeville with his students from Clinton County Community College.

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The museum is working with 4 interns from SUNY Plattsburgh. They are Rosanna Wise, Allison, Bruce, and Teagan. Rosanna will be providing you information on her internship. Allison is scanning documents in our Archives and is with the history department. Bruce and Teagan will be updating the video Northward to Freedom and they are with the anthropology department.