

**2017 National Underground Railroad Conference Schedule**  
**On the Edge of Freedom: Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in the Borderlands**

Host hotel: Comfort Inn, Cambridge, Maryland

Dates: May 18-21, 2017

**Thursday, May 18**

**Workshops to be held at Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center**

**\$25 for one; \$35 for two (morning and afternoon ) lunch included**

10:00-12:00 pm      **Workshop 1: An Interactive Workshop on Poetic Imagination and History**  
**BRIEF EVIDENCE OF HEAVEN: POEMS FROM THE LIFE OF ANNA MURRAY DOUGLASS**  
Michelle Keita

Workshop 2: **How to Interpret Slavery Workshop**  
Akua Anansesemfo

1:00-3:00 pm      **Workshop 3: Tubman and the New Freedom**  
Lacresha Berry

Workshop 4: **Bridging Past to Present: The Borderland Community of Niagara Falls During the Underground Railroad**  
Ally Spongr, Sara Capen, Marci Ross

**Or**

**Field Session/Tour: “In the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Dorchester County is where I was born.”**

11:00 am to 4:00 pm **\$40**

Stops: Stanley Institute, Malone Church, New Revived United Methodist Church, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

Other sites: Church Creek, Woolford, Jacob Jackson Site, Stewart's Canal, Blackwater River, Brodess Farm, Bucktown Village Store

Visit the land of Harriet Tubman's birth, where she spent her formative years and visit the newly opened Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center. Tubman biographer Kate Larson will lead this tour to explore the communities important to Harriet Tubman's early life on the Eastern Shore. View the landscape where Tubman worked, learning outdoor skills from her father Ben Ross, and where she returned to rescue family and friends. Learn about the complex social environment of this region and the relationship between enslaved and free blacks. Tour includes lunch.

2:00-5:30 pm	Conference registration and Exhibit Hall set-up
6:30-8:30 pm	Opening reception, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center

## **Friday, May 19**

8:00-5:30 pm	Conference registration
8:00-5:00 pm	Exhibit Hall
8:00-9:00 am	Continental breakfast
9:00-9:15 am	<b>Opening Session</b> (Dignitaries, Welcomes)
9:15-10:15 am	<b>Plenary Panel: WGN's <i>Underground</i></b> Creators Misha Green and Joe Pokaski; Harriet Tubman actress
10:30-12:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Session 1: Creators of the Underground Railroad, 1835-1865</b> Moderator: Manisha Sinha Panelists: 1. Graham Hodges, Harriet Tubman in Cape May, New Jersey: The Formative Years 2. Kate Masur, African American Spies in the Maryland-Virginia Borderland during the Civil War 3. Philip Troutman, Chronicles of Kidnapping in New York: Elizur Wright at the Borderlands of Slavery Commentator: Chris Bonner
	<b>Concurrent Session 2: Hidden in the Shadows of Slavery: Material Culture and its Significance from the Nanny Jack &amp; Company Archives</b> Moderator: Phillip Merrill Panelists: 1. Phillip Merrill, Printed Material, George Wright and Shokoe Bottom 2. Veronica Carr, Carte de Visite of Rachel Parker 3. Darlene A. Colón, Cabinet Card of Harriet Cole Baker
	<b>Concurrent Session 3: "Eastern shore of Maryland Dorchester County is where I was born": Harriet Tubman's Maryland</b> Moderator: Maya Davis Panelists: 1. H. Eliot Foulds and Jennifer Hanna, Piecing and Patchwork: Deciphering the Jacob Jackson Landscape 2. Phillip Hesser, "Somewhat in the Condition of Freemen": Hiring Out and Harriet Tubman's Borderlands of Freedom 3. Kate Larson, The Tangible and Intangible Borderland Geographies of Harriet Tubman's Life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland
12:15-1:15 pm	Lunch
1:30 – 2:45 pm	Networking/Discussion groups

- Modern, International Perspectives on Harriet Tubman  
Lisbeth Gronlund and Kimerly Cornish
- Literature and the Underground Railroad  
Barbara Lockhart and Jacqueline Wood
- Churches and Schools in the Freedom Struggle in Maryland  
Kalila Barrett-Gaines and Franklin Robinson
- Freedom Seekers and Changes in Time and Space  
Larry McClellan and Cheryl LaRoche

3:00 – 4:30 pm

**Concurrent session 4: Trade, Travel, and Commerce in the South-Central Pennsylvania Underground Railroad**

Moderator: Gail Tomlinson

Panelists:

1. Darlene Colon, Lydia Hamilton Smith
2. Kelly Summerford, William C. Goodridge
3. Phillip Merrill, Eyes are the Window to the Soul

**Concurrent Session 5: History on the Borderlands: Harriet Tubman and Popular Culture**

Moderator: Deanda Johnson

Panelists:

4. Janell Hobson, Cultural Currency and the “Value” of Harriet Tubman
5. Kristen Oertel, Is Harriet Tubman Funny? History and Pop Culture Humor
6. Misha Green and Joe Pokaski

**Concurrent Session 6: Forging Freedom on the Unwelcoming Landscapes of Slavery’s Borderlands**

Moderator: Rosemary Sadlier

Panelists:

1. Valerie Martin, Racial Slavery and Gendered Power in Early Quebec Newspapers: Fugitive, Slave, and Slave Sale Notices in the St. Lawrence Valley
2. Marcus P. Nevius, “By whom liberated or born free?”: Slave Hire and Petit Marronage in Southside Virginia during the Antebellum Era
3. Gordon S. Barker, To Migrate or Sojourn North of Slavery?: Responding to Limited Black Freedom on Erie’s Faraway Shore

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Banquet (Dorchester Arts Center)

Performance: Marcus Shelby

**Saturday, May 20**

8:00 am	Conference registration
7:30 am – 4:30 pm	Exhibit Hall
7:30 – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 10:00 am

**Concurrent Session 7: Freedom on My Mind: The Psychological Burden of Slavery**

Moderator: Leigh Ryan

Panelists:

1. Kathryn Benjamin Golden, Forging Freedom: Flight, Violence, Community, and Autonomy in the Great Dismal Swamp
2. Jeanne Pirtle, The Borderlands of Fear
3. Beryl Hunter, Constructing an Ideal: Resistance and Expediency in the Lower Mississippi Delta

**Concurrent Session 8: Enslavement and Freedom on International Borderlands**

Moderator: Bronwen Sounders

Panelists:

1. Maria Diaz, The Promise of Freedom: The Complicated Sanctuary of Samana, Dominican Republic
2. Lorraine McConaghy, Free Boy: Charles Mitchell and the Puget Sound "Underground Railroad"
3. Meredith Hardy, Engaging the Present by Uncovering the Past—Community Archeology and the Legacy of Enslavement, Resistance, and Emancipation at Christiansted National Historic Site, St. Croix, Virgin Islands

**Concurrent session 9: On the Edge of Freedom: African American Abolitionist Activists**

Moderator: Nikki Taylor

Panelists:

1. Mary Liz Stewart, Stephen Myers on the Borderland of Activism
2. Dean Herrin, Crossing the Line to Freedom: The Story of Basil Dorsey
3. Michele Sullivan, African American Abolitionists in Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania

10:15 – 11:45 am

**Concurrent Session 10: The Promises and Risks of the Borderlands**

Moderator: Shelley Stokes-Hammond

Panelists:

1. David McBride, Runaways, Contrabands or Both? Activities and Implications of Contraband Camps and Settlements to the Underground Railroad
2. Deanda Johnson, Slave Stampedes: A Borderland Phenomenon
3. Bridget Striker, Rising Sun and Rabbit Hash: A Tale of Two Diametrically Opposed Sister Communities on the Ohio River Borderlands

**Concurrent Session 11: Liberation and the Law: Slavery and Freedom**

Moderator: Kalila Barrett-Gaines

Panelists:

1. Gloria Ann Whittico, "A Mere Gratuity": Legal Doctrine, Liberation, and the Law of Manumission in Maryland
2. Margo Williams, Miles Lassiter: Straddling the Lines Between Slave and Free, Black and White
3. Terrence Franklin, The Last Will of Lucy Sutton: One Family's Legal Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom

**Concurrent Session 12: Kidnapped!**

Moderator: Terry Neild

Panelists:

1. Iris Barnes, Sacrificing Margaret Morgan: Slavery and Freedom through the lens of *Prigg v Pennsylvania*, a Pivotal Reverse Underground Railroad Event
2. Milt Diggins, Slave Catching and Kidnapping in the Borderlands
3. Robin Krawitz, The Remarkable Story of Aaron Cooper: Understanding the Landscape of Kidnapping in Delaware through a Suit for Freedom Filed in Natchez, Mississippi

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:15 pm -2:15 pm

**Keynote 2**

2:30 – 4:00 pm

**Concurrent Session 13: Movement to Freedom: Migration, Networking, and Abolition**

Moderator: Diane Miller

Panelists:

1. Deborah Lee, Underground Railroad Migration from the Middle Potomac Region of Virginia and Maryland
2. Jesse Olsavasky, "We are all Bound Together": Women, Vigilance Committees, and the Making of Abolitionism without Borders, 1835-1859
3. Katherine Delavan, Ohio Borderlands: The Abolitionist Network from the Ohio River to Lake Erie

**Concurrent Session 14: The Promise of Canada?: The Reality of Freedom**

Moderator: Richard Dana

Panelists:

1. Deidre McCorkindale, "It is not a British Feeling": Anti-Black Racism in Kent County
2. Donna King, Freedom in America: Myth or Reality in Canada?
3. Veta Tucker, Blacks Navigating Freedom in the Detroit River Borderland

**Concurrent session 15: In it Together: UGRR Networks at Work**

Moderator: Deirdre Sinnott

Panelists:

1. To be determined
2. Don Papson, Tracking Harriet Tubman's Network from Maryland to Canada West
3. Michael Boston, Platt H. Skinner, Abolitionist and Teacher of Deaf, Blind and Mute Black Children

4:15 – 5:00 pm      Closing Session

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm      Explore Cambridge

## **Sunday, May 21**

7:30 -8:00 am      Conference tour registration and check-in

**Field Session/Tour: "In the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Dorchester County is where I was born."**

8:30 to 5:00 pm; **\$50**

Stops: Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Dover Green, Delaware Old State House

Other Sites: Faith Community United Methodist Church, Jacob and Hannah Leverton House, Linchester Mill, Jonestown, Samuel D. Burris marker

Isolated from the mainland for centuries, the Delmarva Peninsula (containing Delaware and the Eastern Shores of Maryland and Virginia) constitutes a distinctive region with a strong southern culture. Explore this Upper South region and learn about slavery and freedom in the borderlands. This tour will follow the Harriet Tubman byway into Caroline County, Maryland, and Delaware, highlighting the story of the Dover Eight who used information from Harriet Tubman in their dramatic escape. In the Poplar Neck area, learn the story of the African American community of which Harriet Tubman's parents, Ben and Rit Ross were a part and the nearby Quaker community. Have lunch in Denton, Maryland

The Delaware portion of the tour will include the "Tales of Slavery and Freedom Walking Tour" on the Dover Green where participants will learn about Delaware's complicated positions regarding freedom and slavery, and its role as a border state during the Civil War. Learn the story of the brave group of freedom seekers known as the Dover Eight and their daring escape from the Dover Jail. Hear about famous African-American Richard Allen and his connections to the Golden Fleece Tavern. In the Old State House, the "Courage and Freedom Tour" will focus on three compelling stories of courageous Delawareans whose fight for freedom and equality began at the Old State House, including Samuel D. Burris.