

EVENTS REPORT JUNE, 2014

Underground Railroad Living History and Tour

On May 15th, 2014, at 7:00 in the evening, actor Millicent Sparks performed in a living history presentation as Harriet Tubman at Solebury Friends Meeting. This was the first of a two part event on the Underground Railroad in Solebury, New Hope and parts of Buckingham. The presentation was free, and open to the public, and was supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council. The New Hope Historical Society sponsored it with us. Rave reviews! Everyone was captivated, enthralled and inspired. It was a "Happening!" The Solebury Meeting was a perfect site and perhaps a hundred and fifty (150) people of different ages and from different directions attended -- not the "usual crowd." Ed Leydon and Brian Keyes along with Mike and Charlie Horner of Solebury Meeting helped with parking, Stephanie Garomon took reservations, Doreen Stratton put up a windowsill exhibit on the Underground Railroad, and Linda Kenyon served lemonade afterwards. Solebury police were on hand to help with exiting traffic.

On May 18th, 2014 Solebury Township Historical Society and New Hope Historical Society co-sponsored a trolley tour of sites that were important on the Underground Railroad in our area. The tour was planned to run from 1:30 until 4:00, with an ice cream and cookies reception following at the schoolhouse. We engaged three (3) trolleys, and four tour guides: Jesse Crooks, Doreen Stratton, Dee Dee Bowman and Linda Kenyon. Elaine Crooks served as treasurer for the event. Beth Carrick produced a map for distribution. Sites on the tour included our schoolhouse, Mount Gilead, Buckingham Meeting, Kenderdines (Cutalossa,) a bathroom stop at Trinity Solebury, Samuel Scott's house, Solebury Friends Meeting, Blackfan Farm, Moses Eastburn's Farm, The Magill Farm, Cintra, the former "Academy," The Delaware House (now Starbucks,) Mount Moriah, Mahlon Gibbs' limekilns, The Emlen Institute, and John Scarborough's house. Dee Keller of the Bucks County Trolley Company, was extremely helpful, as was John Reinhardt of Mount Gilead. Pat Witlicki organized the reception and Donneta Crane and Penny Armagost helped. Pam Burrell arranged for a free donation of OwowCow ice cream, and several people contributed cookies to the well-attended reception. Elaine Crooks and Linda Kenyon provided flowers. Again Stephanie Garomon took the reservations, and I believe that sixty eight (68) people went on the tour, paying forty (\$40) dollars each, and although all trolleys arrived back at the schoolhouse later than expected, those returning were enthusiastic about the tour, and full of energy. Jesse Crooks deserves five-star billing for the work and passion that he put into the tour. If we do it again in say, three years, it would be good to see some of the actual places where runaway slaves were hidden if possible.

PICNIC August 24th, 2014

Now the picnic is coming up, and I am not persuaded that the schoolhouse is a bad location. Let's check it out again, and if it really isn't possible, we might consider a park such as Bowman's Hill.