

KENNETT UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CENTER
P. O. Box 202, Kennett Square, PA 19348

November 2008

Dear friends,

This year KURC has two exciting news items, a recent one and another to look forward to.

First, the recent one: as many of you know, Ella Sestrich and I researched and wrote a **history of Kennett's East Linden Street**, emphasizing three elements of Kennett's history: diversity, Underground Railroad, and industry. Our little book made its debut at the delightful Historic East Linden Project (HELP) fundraiser on October 11 and has had an enthusiastic reception. Most gratifying is the growth of pride in that old neighborhood, which was the aim. Copies are on sale at the Bayard Taylor Library, Kennett Area Senior Center and its bookshop, and the Chester County Visitors Center near Longwood. Or you may call 610-347-2237 for a copy (\$5.00, plus \$1.50 if you want us to send it to you).

Second, we are thrilled to announce **our new museum-to-be: the old Eusebius Barnard house** on Wawaset Road near the Pocopson Home! People always want to visit an Underground Railroad station, and this is the real McCoy, described at some length in R. C. Smedley's *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*. Although we regret not being in Kennett, we are endlessly grateful to Pocopson Township for inviting us to share this house, part of which they'll use for their office. We have yet to sign an agreement, but we don't foresee any snags. Converting a residence to a museum will take thought and work and time, so watch for an announcement of our opening in late spring or early summer 2009.

Through the summer and fall we've continued our minibus tours, setting out from the Chester County Visitors Center, which has generously let us put some of our items in their space. Be sure to stop in (10-5 every day) and get acquainted with Darryl Hall's creation **Johnson Hayes Walker**, who reclines in his wheelbarrow, and try Henry "Box" Brown's crate for size. This year for the first time Unionville Community Fair invited us to have a display and tours, which had special meaning so near the site of the 1849 James Mitchell kidnapping.

At the HELP fundraiser in October we led **walking tours of East Linden Street** and enjoyed hearing former residents "Vincent Barnard" (Roger Price), "Clara Wright" (Martha Walls Brown), and "Joseph Carter" (Darryl Hall) introduce themselves.

Talks to local groups continue to be popular. This year we've spoken to Brownies, church and civic groups, retirement communities, and a family reunion. Interest in local Underground Railroad history is definitely on the rise, especially among African-Americans.

A sad note: for years the story of the Underground Railroad around here was told by Frances Taylor and illustrated by her husband Tom's slides and drawings. Tom died in late October. Our warm condolences go to Frances and her family.

Do check our website, <http://undergroundrr.kennett.net/>, now and then for news and updates. For instance, we've added several houses to our interactive map since last year.

Your assistance has helped in the past to teach hundreds of people, from school kids to retirees, locals to overseas tourists, about our rich local history. Your support is helpful both directly (with operating expenses) and indirectly, in helping to show local support as we apply for grants. Thank you so much in advance for your generous gift.

Happy holidays and a fine 2009 to all our friends,

Mary Larkin Dugan, President

Board of Directors: Mary Anderson; Martin Greene; Darryl Hall;
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