



**OHIO HISTORY CONNECTION**  
**SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2024**

(International Underground Railroad Month)



**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024** (International Underground Railroad Month)

## **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD GATHERING AGENDA**

- 9 am**            **REGISTRATION & EXPLORE MUSEUM – Main Floor**
- 10 am**            **GATHERING WELCOME, MICHAEL B. COLEMAN – Auditorium**
- 10:20**            **OPENING SESSION**  
▶ **Interwoven Paths: Expanding Ohio’s Underground Railroad Narratives Through Indigenous-Freedom Seeker Connections**  
Speaker: Jim Lee
- 11:30 am**        **BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Please see program for option.**
- 12:30**            **BREAK**
- 1:15 pm**        **Lunch will be served on the Plaza**
- 1:30**            **LUNCH with PRESENTATION**  
▶ **Intersections of Resilience: Exploring the Afro-Indigenous Experience on the Underground Railroad**  
Speaker: Mark Evans
- 2:40**            **BREAKOUT SESSION**  
Please see program for options.
- 3:50**            **CLOSING SESSION**  
▶ **Bridging Generations: Engaging Youth in the Stories of Lost Sites and Honoring Legacy**  
Speaker: Paul LaRue
- 5 pm**            **CLOSING REMARKS**

# SESSION AND BREAKOUT SESSION ABSTRACTS

10:20 –  
11:20 am

## OPENING SESSION

- ▶ **Interwoven Paths: Expanding Ohio's Underground Railroad Narratives Through Indigenous-Freedom Seeker Connections**

**Speaker:** Jim Lee

**Location:**  
*Auditorium*

**Abstract:** In this pivotal plenary session, Jim Lee, a descendant of Shawnee Chief Cornstalk, will delve into the profound connections between Indigenous communities and freedom seekers in Ohio's rich history of the Underground Railroad. Lee will explore the generational ties that have seen Indigenous peoples act as protectors and allies to those fleeing enslavement. By weaving together genealogical research, oral histories, and historical documentation, Lee aims to present a comprehensive and enriched narrative that honors these intertwined legacies. This session will not only broaden our understanding of the Underground Railroad's history in Ohio but also highlight the importance of collaborative historical narratives in fostering a deeper appreciation of our shared past.

11:30 am –  
12:35 pm

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- ▶ **Passing Along the Knowledge: Stories of Success from Network to Freedom Sites**

- **Ohio Poetry Association** presents, Poetry Moves us Beyond

**Speaker:** Susann Moller

**Abstract:** Join the Ohio Poetry Association, interactive session inspired by their ongoing Whistle-Stop Poetry Tour, visiting historic Underground Railroad stations across Ohio. This dynamic event, held at the Hanby House, blends history, art, and social activism, featuring poetry readings that celebrate Ohio's pivotal role in the Underground Railroad while confronting contemporary issues of social justice, hate, and prejudice. Participants will experience a taste of the tour through an interactive poetry workshop.

- **Harriet Beecher Stowe House:** Connecting the Underground Railroad and the Green Book

**Speaker:** Christina Hartlieb

**Abstract:** During the 1830s and 1840s Harriet Beecher Stowe lived in Cincinnati. This time provided the experiences which enabled her to write the antislavery novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin. Indirect connections with the Underground Railroad in Southwest Ohio fueled some of her narrative. Fast forward one hundred years. In the 1930s and 1940s, the Beecher family home served as the Edgemont Inn, an African American boarding house, community gathering space, and tavern listed in the Green Motorist Book. Our multiyear restoration has brought both of these time periods to life. While in our case they occupy the same physical space, there are in fact many similarities and connections between the Underground Railroad and the Green Book era. We'll explore these links and see how the Harriet Beecher Stowe House bears witness to generations using their voices for truth.

- **Hubbard House:** Sallie Bradley—Connecting students to history in a small site

**Speaker:** Sally Bradley

**Abstract:** Join Sally Bradley, Executive Director of the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ashtabula, Ohio, for an insightful presentation on the importance of Ohio's historic Underground Railroad sites in promoting social justice and education today. Sally oversees the strategic vision of the Hubbard House, ensuring it remains a beacon of history, community engagement, and advocacy.

In this session, Sally will share her experiences managing museum operations, fostering collaborations with schools and businesses, and building relationships with

**Location:**  
*Ladybug  
Conference  
Room*

**Location:**  
*Cardinal  
Classroom*

**Location:**  
*Plaza*

stakeholders to sustain and grow the museum's impact. Attendees will learn about the museum's educational programs, youth development initiatives, and community outreach efforts that honor Ohio's abolitionist legacy. Sally will also highlight her work in organizing fundraising events, grant writing, and docent training that supports the museum's mission of preserving this essential chapter of history while inspiring future generations to combat prejudice and promote equality.

- **Macedonia Baptist Church**, Burlington, Ohio: Small Black Churches and the Underground Railroad

**Speaker:** Lacy Ward

**Abstract:** Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church: The Next Chapter Abstract: The Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Board of Trustees in partnership with the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio African American Community Fund is rehabilitating the c. 1849 National Register property for its return to service as a historic site and community center. Project manager Lacy Ward Jr. will share Macedonia's history and significance, and an overview of the partners engaged in the rehabilitation effort, the project's funders, and the work ahead.

**Location:**  
*Auditorium*

**12:30 – 1 pm BREAK**

**1:15 pm Lunch will be served on the Plaza**

**1:30 – LUNCH with PRESENTATION**

**2:30 pm ▶ Intersections of Resilience: Exploring the Afro-Indigenous Experience on the Underground Railroad**

**Speaker:** Mark Evans

**Abstract:** The Bullskin Trace Trail (St. Rt. 68) & Underground Railroad connections to Indigenous Americans, and Quakers through Ohio to Canada. Timeline 1779 - 1865

**2:40 –**

**3:40 pm ▶ BREAKOUT SESSION**

**Expanding Horizons: From Classroom Insights to National Recognition in Freedom Educations**

**Speaker:** Amy Bottomley

**Abstract:** A Southern Poverty Law Center 2018 report demonstrated that teachers are serious about teaching slavery, but there's a lack of deep coverage of the subject in the classroom. Using this report as a guide, we will discuss the barriers to this work and how teachers can improve their practices by utilizing seven key understandings to drive instruction.

**Location:**  
*Cardinal  
Classroom*

**Real Freedom: Documentary – Joshua McCarter Simpson**

**Speaker:** Capital University film and history students

**Abstract:** This breakout session is designed to illustrate the impact of collaboration and partnership to produce more authentic, historical narratives. Led by a collective of film and history students from Capital University, they will discuss their unique, immersive project, a documentary on the life and work of abolitionist, Joshua McCarter Simpson, that will be shown during the Ohio History Center's Underground Railroad school tour program. This session will provide an opportunity to screen the trailer of the documentary, practical advice on developing and working on collaborative teams, addressing challenges, and the opportunity to have open dialogue.

**Location:**  
*Trilobite  
Conference  
Room*

▶ **Pathways to Preservation: Navigating the Network to Freedom Registration Process**

**Speaker:** Barry Jurgensen

**Location:**  
*Auditorium*

**Abstract:** This breakout session, led by a National Park Service representative, is designed for organizations and sites aiming to be recognized on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the registration process, including eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the benefits of being listed. The session will provide practical guidance on preparing a successful application, addressing common challenges, and highlighting the support available from the National Park Service. Interactive discussions will allow participants to ask questions, share experiences, and connect with others involved in similar projects. This session is essential for any site considering registration to enhance their contributions to preserving the legacy of the Underground Railroad.

**3:50 –  
4:50 pm**

**CLOSING SESSION**

▶ **Bridging Generations: Engaging Youth in the Stories of Lost Sites and Honoring Legacies**

**Speaker:** Paul LaRue

**Location:**  
*Auditorium*

**Abstract:** In this enlightening plenary session, Paul LaRue will explore the crucial role of youth engagement in preserving and narrating the stories of historical sites that have vanished from our landscapes. Drawing on a rich background in education and historical preservation, LaRue will provide attendees with innovative strategies for making these lost sites accessible and meaningful to younger generations. This session will also pay tribute to the enduring legacy of Cathy Nelson, whose dedication to historical education has inspired countless individuals to connect with their heritage. By intertwining the narratives of past and present, and fostering connections across generations, this session aims to ensure that the invaluable lessons of history are not only remembered but are actively incorporated into the ongoing story of our communities.

**5 – 6 pm**

**CLOSING RECEPTION AND NETWORKING**

## SPEAKERS



**Jim Lee** grew up in Oklahoma and is a member of the Shawnee Tribe and the Cherokee Nation. Jim's 4th great grandfather was Silver Heels, brother to Chief Cornstalk and Chief Nonhelema (Grenadier Squaw), who made their homes in much of Ohio during the mid to late 1700's. Jim and his wife Jeri have been researching their family's genealogy for over 40 years and have been utilizing DNA studies in the past 10 years or so. Jim received his double Bachelor of Science degrees in Chemistry and Biology from Northwestern Oklahoma State University and spent a short time as a research chemist focusing on lipoprotein studies. Jim worked in the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma and Texas as a chemist and manager for 40 years. Jim was one of the top individuals in hydrocarbon measurement in the United States and has taught at many technical schools across the country. Jim served as Vice-Chair of the inaugural Shawnee Tribe Historical and Cultural Preservation Committee and is a Board member of the Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation and the Chairman of their Cultural Outreach Committee. Jim is now retired, and he and his wife continue their love of family history, and travel across the U.S. visiting historical sites related to their families and continuing their genealogical research.



**Susann Moeller**, an award-winning poet, is Vice President of the Ohio Poetry Association (OPA) and Chancellor of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). A life-long instructor in the Arts & Humanities and a social justice and environmental activist, her passion is reflected in her poems and her advocacy of food equity on the Franklin County Food Council, proponent of local gardening as an Urban Master Farmer, Green Teacher, former executive director of a watershed, of a local arts council – and the list goes on. She identifies as a plant-based foodie, unapologetic tree-hugger, mediocre artist, and better writer. Her prized possessions? Yoga mat and passport!



**Christina Hartlieb** serves as the Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House. With a BA and MA in History along with a background in small business and secondary education, Christina has strengthened the programming and visitor experience of this historic site. Christina is passionate about historical literacy and visits other museums and historic sites whenever she gets the chance.



**Lacy Ward Jr.** is a federal government retiree and is passionate about historic preservation. In addition to government, Lacy also held positions in the nonprofit sector and higher education addressing preservation from several perspectives. Lacy is most proud of his time as founding director of the Robert Russa Moton Museum in Prince Edward County, Virginia. Under his leadership the NHL former Moton High School was converted to a Civil Rights Era museum chronicling the county's role in "Brown v. Board," and "Massive Resistance" in the years 1951 through 1964. Lacy is currently serving as the project manager of the Macedonia Rehabilitation Project.



**Sally Bradley** is the Executive Director of the Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum in Ashtabula, Ohio. Bradley oversees the museum's strategic vision by monitoring museum's operations and ensure business practices comply with regulatory and legal requirements, develop organizational culture, promote collaborations with schools, community and business's, develop relationships with stakeholders, organize fundraising events, grant writing, conduct docent and educational youth development trainings, community outreach and represent the museum at social and corporate events.



**Mark T. Evans** is a historian, researcher, and short film documentary producer with a deep passion for preserving the stories of the Underground Railroad and Indigenous American history in the Northwest Territory. He is the 4th great-grandson of Lewis and Susan Adams, notable Underground Railroad conductors from Champaign County, Ohio, and the 6th great-grandson of Kandis LaForce, a British Shawnee captive during the Revolutionary War. Mark attended Wittenberg University and has a diverse career background, with 14 years in robotics and automation development, 13 years in hydrogen fuel cell research and development, and 2 years as a validation software engineer. His leadership extends to his community, where he has served two terms as both president and treasurer of the 104th Annual Adams Family Reunion. In his free time, Mark enjoys reading and research, videography and photography, sports, kayaking, travel, and building e-bikes. His dedication to history and innovation, combined with his family legacy, continues to inspire his work and projects.



**Dr. Amy Bottomley** is the Director, Education at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She has earned a B.S. in Secondary Education: Social Studies, a M.Ed. in Reading Education, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Amy has taught high school social studies and reading courses in Ohio and Maryland, as well as teacher education courses at the University of Cincinnati. She is dedicated to teaching for social justice and supporting teachers in their pursuit of inclusive classroom practices. Amy can be contacted at (513) 333-7586 or at [abottomley@nurfc.org](mailto:abottomley@nurfc.org).



**Barry Jurgensen's** career with the National Park Service (NPS) began in 2004 as an intern at the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha, Nebraska. The following year he became an architectural historian with the NPS at the Midwest Regional Office (MWRO) in Omaha. Barry left NPS in 2009 to begin teaching.

During his educational career, Jurgensen was a secondary/dual credit teacher for Arlington Public Schools and an adjunct professor at Bellevue University and Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska. Much of his success as an educator started in 2009 with the creation of an educational program called Forever Free. He worked closely with Dr. Deanda Johnson to create the Forever Free program, which provided opportunities for high school and college students to become historians and preserve the history of the Underground Railroad. The program is responsible for 34 successful applications to the Network to Freedom throughout the Midwest. Jurgensen's most notable achievement is receiving the Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award in 2016 for his walk that amplified the stories of the Underground Railroad and created awareness for modern day slavery. He was awarded the History Teacher of the Year for the State of Nebraska, the George C. Olson Award from the Nebraska State Historical Society, History Teacher of the Year from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, recognition from the Great Plains Black History Museum, and other accolades.

In 2019, he worked with the National Register of Historic Places Program in Washington, D.C. while managing the Forever Free Program in the Midwest.

Jurgensen's career has focused on working with communities to preserve sites and stories of the Underground Railroad. His career has come full circle and is pleased to say that he is now the Midwest Regional Manager and Historian for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.





**Paul LaRue** is a retired social studies teacher from Washington C.H. He has been the recipient of numerous state and National teaching awards; including Ohio American Legion Teacher of the Year, Ohio Veterans of Foreign Wars Educator of the Year, and Ohio Daughters of the American Revolution History Teacher of the Year. Nationally Paul was Time Warner National Teacher of the Year; and received First Place in The History Channel's Innovation in Education. Paul serves as Co-Chair of the America 250 Ohio K-12 Education Committee and is President of the State Board of Education.

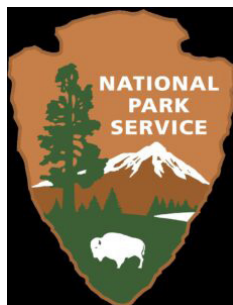




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