

TIME LINE OF ACTIVITIES 1998 - 2006

1998

- Kennett Underground Railroad Center was founded by Frances Cloud Taylor, local Underground Railroad expert and author of "The Trackless Trail" and "The Trackless Trail Leads On," and other local people.
- KURC was incorporated as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation. Funding was received from the Philadelphia Foundation, Kennett Monthly Meeting, and individuals.

1999

- Several nearby sites were considered for a museum and study center, including The Pines, the Cox house, and Kennett Grange, but none was selected.

2000

- Because of Frances Taylor's illness and other factors, KURC progress stalled.

2001

- A new steering committee was formed under the leadership of Marlene Drewes.
- KURC was given a room in Kennett's History Station, an old freight station leased by the borough for use by the Kennett Historical Commission and other groups. Volunteers acted as docents at the Station during regular open hours on weekend afternoons. Also, students from local schools and other groups and individuals visited by appointment.
- Local Underground Railroad "stations" were visited and researched.
- KURC sponsored Oni Lasana's program "Harriet Tubman...Herstory" for schools and the public.
- KURC's website, www.undergroundrr.kennett.net, was established.

2002

- KURC initiated guided Underground Railroad Heritage Tours, one Sunday afternoon each summer month.
- A second exhibit room was opened, with furniture and artifacts to suggest a 19th-century interior. Replicas of real hiding places were built in, for children to find and explore.

- Generous friends donated and loaned objects for the exhibits.
- KURC's "General Store" offered books, KURC t-shirts, and other items.
- Local artist Mary Jo Ciganek created a map of local Underground Railroad sites. Prints were offered for sale.
- KURC speakers addressed local civic and educational groups.
- KURC set up a booth and ran guided minibus tours at Kennett's Mushroom Festival.
- Grants were received from Kendal-Crosslands Communities, the Stewart Huston Foundation, the Chester County Community Foundation, and the Marshall Reynolds Trust.

2003

- Through KURC's efforts, John Milner's graduate class at the University of Pennsylvania studied the Cox house, its history and structure, and presented their results.
- KURC presented programs by Frederick Douglass IV and the Chester Children's Chorus at local schools and for the public.
- KURC continued to address local groups on the topic of Underground Railroad in this area.
- The Heritage Tours continued, as did participation in the Mushroom Festival.
- KURC's website brought visitors to The History Station from distant states and even foreign countries. Many school groups visited the Station.
- Local friends contributed generously to the exhibits.

2004

- KURC received a grant from the Chester County Community Foundation.
- KURC sponsored a reenactor, Willis Phelps, who performed at some local schools during February, Black History Month.
- Heritage Tours, local talks, open hours on weekends, Mushroom Festival participation, and research continued.

2005

- At KURC's suggestion, Stackpole Books republished R. C. Smedley's *History of the Underground Railroad in Chester and the Neighboring Counties of Pennsylvania*, with a new introduc-

tion by Christopher Densmore, curator of the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, scholar of the Underground Railroad, and KURC's friend and advisor.

- KURC, Longwood Gardens, and Western Quarterly Meeting of Friends sponsored the 150th Anniversary of Longwood Progressive Meeting, with Mr. Densmore as speaker. Over 300 attended.
- KURC's application to become part of the National Park Service's Network to Freedom program was accepted.
- Because of the sale of The History Station to Penn Eastern Rail Lines, the borough lost its lease and KURC and the other groups had to vacate the exhibit rooms.

2006

- Chadds Ford Historical Society invited KURC to display pictures and artifacts in its exhibit space for the year.
- KURC received grants from the Chester County Community Foundation and Pennsylvania's Dept. of Community & Economic Development for research in the history of Kennett's East Linden Street. This area is the focus of revitalization under the Historic East Linden Project. In the 19th century it was the home of many who were associated with the Underground Railroad and was also the site of much early Kennett industry.
- KURC sponsored the filming of a video documentary about Kennett's African-American baseball team, the Grey Sox, which flourished in the mid-20th century. The documentary will be presented in 2007.

2007

- After a rewarding year in Chadds Ford Historical Society, KURC was invited by Chester County Visitors Center to display some items in their building near Longwood, including a replica of Henry "Box" Brown's box. The rest were stored, waiting for a new museum space.
- KURC and HELP enjoyed a joint potluck supper at Bethel Church.
- KURC premiered the Grey Sox video at the HELP Gala in the Red Clay Room.
- KURC continued its Heritage Tour program and talks to community groups.

2008

- Pocopson Township has invited KURC to share space in an Underground Railroad house, Eusebius Barnard's, on Wawaset Road. The move will take place in mid-2009.
- *East Linden Street: A History* by Ella Sestrich and Mary Dugan was introduced at the HELP fundraiser in October, which also featured walking tours of the street and dinner at Bethel Church.

· The Heritage Tours continued, with the addition of tours at the Unionville Community Fair. KURC gives frequent talks to community groups and this year to a family reunion.