

New Philadelphia Association, Barry, Illinois

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Fall 2020

Nat'l Historic Park Act: Let's add New Philadelphia to Nat'l Park Service!

This fall Congressman Darrin LaHood introduced a bill to make New Philadelphia part of our nation's system of national parks. Soon 200 supporters had emailed his office from 90 universities, 38 businesses, organizations, elected officials and McWorter descendants—across 30 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, England and Germany. It will not pass in 2020, but staff aims for a 2021 floor vote. This site is part of our country's history to remember, celebrate, protect, and share with future generations. As Joe Conover of Quincy, IL, wrote in his support letter, New Philadelphia “teaches us not merely what was but what could be.” *

→ Prefer to read this online? Write to jeffm@adams.net ←

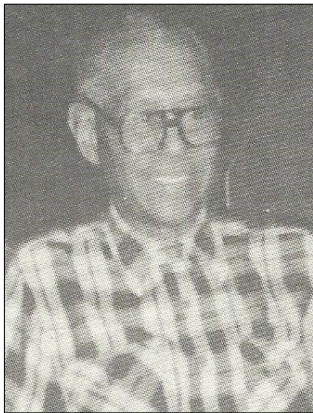
Thank you to Barryites and NPA Members for Sponsored Lots

Recently a number of Barry citizens joined in sponsoring a New Philadelphia town lot to honor the James and LeMoyne Washington family. Now this fall NPA members sponsored a town lot in memory of Roger Woods. Mrs. Marsha Woods and family accepted the gift and honored Roger—husband, father, and grandfather.

James Washington was LeMoyne's grandfather. Loved and respected, LeMoyne lived in Barry until he died in 1998. He was an avid high school sports fan and always willing to help others, especially the Burdick family who went back to 1830s New Philadelphia.

Roger Woods owned and farmed part of NP and nearby. He was always available to answer questions. He

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Above:
LeMoyne
Washington,
son of a
longtime New
Philadelphia
family. Photo
from *The Paper*,
Barry, IL,
February 14,
2018.

Below: Roger Woods family at New Philadelphia: L to R front, Makenna Woods, Madilyn King, Bradley King. Back row, NPA's Phil Bradshaw, Marsha Woods, Linda King, Marie Woods, Allison Woods, and Jackson Woods in the arms of Randy Woods. Photo by M. Corton.



...Lots, cont'd

plowed for the 2002 archaeology walk-over survey that first located and mapped artifacts. He preserved Frank McWorter's homestead site across the road.

The Washington gift along with Quincy-based Farm and Home Stores helped to furnish two benches for the site. You can sit and look north- and south-east for a great view of farmland and timber in all seasons.

Why the lots? Free Frank had New Philadelphia platted into 144 lots. He then sold lots to buy his family still enslaved in Kentucky. Now NPA and friends are sponsoring lots to preserve the site: one for \$1000 or two for \$1836, the year New Philadelphia was founded. An image on page four shows the sponsored lots. Thank you to our members, neighbors and Woods family and friends for recognizing the importance of New Philadelphia. *

Why New Philadelphia?

Town founder Free Frank McWorter was born a slave in 1777. He became a respected landowner, livestock farmer, town founder and marketing expert. He was a loving husband and father who managed over 30 years to free his family from slavery. He first bought his pregnant wife from her owner so that their future children would be free. Then he earned enough to buy himself and traded his saltpeter mine for his oldest son. He and his wife Lucy, three free-born children and his oldest son left Kentucky for Hadley Township, Pike County, IL where he had bought military tract land sight unseen.

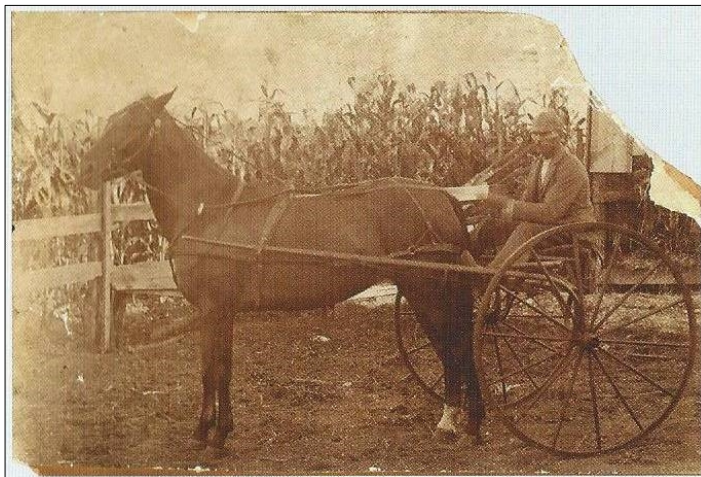
The family arrived and began farming and saving to buy family members still in bondage in Kentucky. Frank McWorter established New Philadelphia and sold town lots. This attracted African Americans and European Americans; they lived and farmed together and helped others find freedom. Frank's sculpted bust by Shirley McWorter Moss is in our masthead. *

What is the NPA?

NPA was founded in 1996 by a small group of local people who wanted New Philadelphia's location forever remembered by a new sign. They realized Free Frank and his amazing story should be an example for all peoples. To that end, they began to buy parts of the town site to preserve it ... initiated archaeology and history work ... and are still at it. To learn more visit New Philadelphia, check our website or Facebook page, or read our book *New Philadelphia* (\$20+\$5 postage): <http://www.newphiladelphiaill.org>.

Officers: Philip Bradshaw, President; Gerald McWorter, Vice President; Carol McCartney, Secretary; Jerry Corton, Treasurer; Marynel Corton, Executive Director. Board members: Rodger Hannel, Debbie Harshman, David Iftner, Kaye Iftner, Charlotte King, Sandra McWorter Marsh, Brenda Middendorf, Dale Phillips, Emily Pursley, Shawn Rennecker, Lonie Wilson, and Becky Winner. *

Longtime New Philadelphia Family: The Butlers/Carters



One of the Butlers, most likely William, at New Philadelphia. Photo from Ron Carter and *The Living Museum*, Illinois State Museum, V. 66, Win 2004-5.

Grace E. Matteson's "Free Frank McWorter and the Town of Philadelphia" (1964) and other sources from the Pike County Historical Society enable us to tell this story about some longtime New Philadelphians.

William Butler from Louisville, KY, had served as an orderly for a Confederate general in the Civil War. Starting north, he stopped in Marion County, MO, working for a while. He bought himself a mule and headed for Illinois at age 19. On a rainy night he happened to stop at Solomon and Jane McWorter's and was invited to spend the night. Then they gave him a job. Later Solomon died and Butler stayed to help Jane with the farm work and the children.

William married a lovely young Caucasian woman named Catherine Wright whose father had brought her from Missouri to stay with a family by name of Wagoner in New Philadelphia. William and Catherine Butler had two daughters, Irene and Dora and a son, Golden.

Irene remembers her father owning the entire public square at New Philadelphia. They lived on the east side of it. Irene was a substitute teacher at New Philadelphia. On October 14, 1906, at age 25, she married Ollie Brown who worked as bus boy at MacMurray College in Jacksonville. Irene and Ollie lived in Jacksonville their entire married life but for six years in Nebraska. Irene worked as head cook at MacMurray College for 32 years, giving up her position when Ollie became ill. After he died, she was employed as a cook at Illinois College for 3 years. In 1956 she retired but she and her daughter Elizabeth baked thousands of cookies each month for the college.

Elizabeth also managed The Hub, a tearoom-snack bar in Jacksonville. She served in the Women's Army Air Force in WWII. Butler descendant Ron Carter served on the NPA board. He was responsible for the on-site Talking House microradio broadcast in 2006 and his wife Mary worked with Sandra McWorter Marsh on the 2005 McWorter family reunion. Their children Courtney, Valerie and Nick joined their parents in support of the town. *

New Philadelphia's Student Archaeologists: Where are They Now?

From 2002 to 2013, the NPA worked with others on archaeology and related research, especially through the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates field school. It's great to see how New Philadelphia was a launch pad for the hardworking students on the dig.

Annelise Morris worked at New Philadelphia as a student intern in 2007, archival researcher in 2008, field archaeologist in 2009, and field supervisor in 2011. Just four years later she earned her archaeology PhD from the University of California Berkeley.

What's more remarkable is that her dissertation adopts methods from New Philadelphia to study her own family's homeplace, as they called it, in Pinkstaff, Lawrence County, IL. Her title suggests her findings: "We All Lived in that House Together": Persistence as Resistance on an Illinois Farmstead, 1845-Present." Her thesis dedication includes, "I'd like to thank Chris Fennell, Terry Martin, and Claire Martin whose resources, guidance and training on the New Philadelphia project gave me the experience and courage to undertake this research."



Annelise has taught college courses and now works as a social sciences teacher at Marin Academy in Oakland, CA. Her courses have included US History (Honors), Introduction to Ethnic Studies and Science Research.

She writes that her focus is on "people and cultures of the African Diaspora, and the ways that we in the Diaspora have embedded our histories within our material cultural practices. I have designed collaborative, public projects that enable people to take part in the creation and maintenance of their own historical narratives."

Angie Maranville worked at New Philadelphia as a student intern in 2006. She was pursuing her BA as a nontraditional student in Sociology/Anthropology at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS). This work fueled her to earn an MA in environmental studies there, and then a master's in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Angie is now a senior librarian—Director of Knowledge Access & Resource Management—at West Virginia University, still digging and helping others dig—for information. Plus, she met her wife Emily on the New Philadelphia dig! We plan to profile Emily in the future.

For Angie, her time at New Philadelphia was all about discovery. Here she discovered the value of teamwork, the excitement of uncovering a newly found, but clearly well used artifact, and most importantly and its most basic, a love of learning new knowledge and making it accessible for others to share.

Angie also worked at UIS Brookens Library as a reference librarian intern. Here her love for knowledge and ability to find practically anything on the internet translated into a very successful internship. Immediately after graduation in 2012, she

was hired as an Information Technology Technical Associate at Brookens Library in part due to her experiences serving as the GIS Lab Coordinator for a year during her other master's degree. She was able to use this desire to share knowledge freely maintaining the systems that support a library such as the catalog, electronic resource management systems, website, and off-campus authentication system. After spending a year in this position, she had the opportunity to make a greater impact on knowledge discovery as Director of Library Technical Services and Information Systems.



In 2016 Angie and Emily moved to Morgantown, WV. Angie hopes for a future where open access is the norm not the exception, and knowledge can be shared freely, not constrained by social or economic constructs.*

Wide Support for New Philadelphia Becoming a National Park

Scott Risley in San Mateo, CA: "New Philadelphia provides an important lesson for Americans today... America is at its best when we live out the ideals our nation claims to stand for: freedom and racial equality."

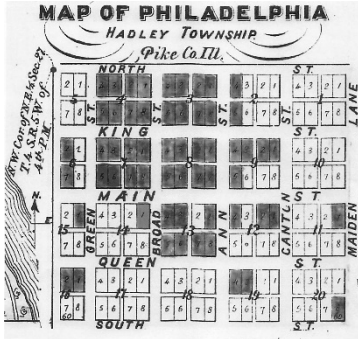
Courtney Ng in New York, NY: "I wrote my senior honors thesis on Frank McWorter's town and its glass artifacts. It means a lot to me that you are proposing this

legislation to make his town a National Park Service site."

Attorney Robert M. Koeller, Indianapolis, IN: "I grew up near there in Barry, IL, and knew some of the descendants of the [New Philadelphia] founders. This needs to be done to honor these wonderful pioneers for future generations."

More words of support in the next newsletter.*

New Philadelphia Association PO Box 54 Barry, Illinois 62312



New Philadelphia in west central Illinois was the first U.S. town founded by an African American, “Free” Frank McWorter. Established in 1836, it was an abolitionist village where African Americans and European Americans lived and farmed for decades. Today it is still growing as a site for learning and appreciation open to all.

New Philadelphia’s Cabins, Bees, and Butterflies Getting Some Love

Thanks to NP farmer Larry Armstead, New Philadelphia features three 1850s-era log buildings. He collected them around Pike County and with some friends rebuilt them. They also protect some original foundations. One was a granary on the nearby Grammar-Campbell farm. Another was a log cabin on a trail near Rockport that may have been called the Big Four Trail. It ran between Montezuma on the Illinois River to Atlas on the Mississippi. The third building was south of New Philadelphia near Shaw School. A log cabin built by John



Kerr, an emigrant from Ireland in 1848, it later gained rooms and was covered with siding for a larger house. As the house was being razed in the 1990s the log cabin was discovered within.

With very few pictures of 1800s New Philadelphia, these structures help everyone imagine how it was. But

they are 170 years old! We got great advice from “Log Doctor” Joe Gallagher (logdoc.com). Now we’re looking for supplies, volunteers, and a spring day to tackle the job of protection and restoration. Want to help?



This fall Christian Dean mowed and sprayed a rectangle and we blocked out a butterfly garden and moved in rich soil. L to R Brock Willard, Terry Martin, Phil Bradshaw, Marynel Corton, Gene Gordley, David Iftner, Jerry Corton.

A 10 by 20 butterfly garden and an acre of native prairie plants for pollinators of all kinds are coming to New Philadelphia. First, all summer David Forshey had mowed carefully along the kiosk, the trail and the signposts, making for an easy walk. Pike/Scott County Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers and USDA Soil & Water Conservation Services helped situate the garden. Great River Land Trust donated blocks. David Iftner says we will be busy pulling weeds next year.

Bees and monarch butterflies are losing habitat. Bees are essential for pollination of many plants, flowers and trees. Monarch butterflies are pollinators too and help in the food chain and ecosystem. We look forward to these creatures flying around our cabins in the future. ✱