

New Philadelphia Association, Barry, Illinois

[www.newphiladelphiail.org](http://www.newphiladelphiail.org)

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Spring 2021

## Join our Drive for Land and Park!

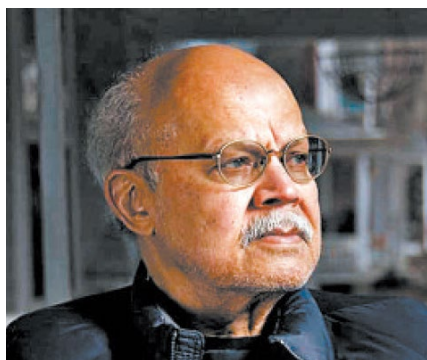
New Philadelphia is on the move and asking you to join in. A bill in Congress to make New Philadelphia part of the National Park Service is going forward thanks to Rep. Darrin LaHood. And a drive to own the land of New Philadelphia free and clear is underway. Our goal is \$300,000 and we are more than halfway there. Owning the land will preserve the site and win more federal support for park status.

In just the last six months, many media and cultural

outlets are telling the New Philadelphia freedom story to their audiences. We thank them. We thank those who have already donated. And we invite you and your friends to lend a hand. Every dollar will be matched, that is, doubled. \$25 or more gets you our *New Philadelphia* book. Let's put Free Frank McWorter's New Philadelphia story securely into the nation's history where it belongs.

Phil Bradshaw, President

Gerald McWorter, Vice President



### Join others recognizing New Philadelphia:

Chicago Tribune

History Museum on the Square (Quincy)

Illinois College

Illinois Humanities/Activate History

Illinois State Museum

McGraw Hill Education

National Park Service/Hour History lessons

National Public Radio

The Paper (Barry)

Peoria Riverfront Museum

Pike County Express

Pike Press

Quincy Herald-Whig

WGN Radio 720 (Chicago)



**Chicago Tribune**  
**HERALD-WHIG**

**PIKE COUNTY EXPRESS**

**PIKE PRESS**



**HISTORY MUSEUM ON THE SQUARE**



## Beloved Go-To Person

### Harry Wright (1931-2021)

Harry and Helen Wright were at the 1996 meeting of those people interested in providing a new sign for the farm field marking where New Philadelphia was in Hadley Township, Pike County.



He was the first Registered Agent of the New Philadelphia Association corporation and instrumental in acquiring appraisals and purchasing the Burdick House and Arnett property.

His relatives lived near New Philadelphia, so he had personal stories of area residents which he would relate with humor and care. He knew the local cave where freedom seekers hid from slavecatchers.

During NPA meetings, he was our go-to person for

### Why New Philadelphia?

Town founder Free Frank McWorter was born enslaved in 1777. He became a landowner, livestock farmer, and marketing expert. He and his family managed to free 16 family members. He bought freedom for his pregnant wife Lucy first, so that their next child would be free. He earned enough to buy his own freedom and traded his saltpeter mine to free his oldest son. Frank, Lucy, their three free-born children and Frank Jr. left Kentucky for Hadley Township, Pike County, IL where Frank had bought military tract land sight unseen.

The family arrived and began farming and saving to buy family members out of slavery 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 local activists who wanted New Philadelphia well marked by a new sign. They knew Free Frank and his amazing story are an example for all peoples. They initiated archaeology and history work, began to buy parts of the site to preserve it, and are still at it. Visit New Philadelphia, check our website <http://newphiladelphiail.org> or Facebook, or read *New Philadelphia* (\$20+\$5 post).

Officers: President Philip Bradshaw; VP Gerald McWorter; Sec'y Carol McCartney; Treas Jerry Corton; Exec Dir Marynel Corton. 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.\*

questions about the county board actions, soil and plants, by-laws, and history. Phil Bradshaw often asked, "Harry, do you remember....?" And the question was answered.

As another NPA volunteer put it, "Engaging with the archaeology team and curious about excavation and finds, Harry's wit, sense of humor and extensive knowledge made him a welcome visitor.

"A staunch supporter of New Philadelphia and all it represents, Harry graciously contributed and shared his years of community service as an active NPA board member and recently, as his health allowed, participated in virtual NPA meetings as a director emeritus with his characteristic positive attitude and cheerful way.

"Harry's deep love for Helen and all his family were reflected in email messages filled with hope, optimism and appreciation for even the smallest kindness and the beauty of a sunny day. Harry will not be forgotten."\*



**New Philadelphia today: cabins, path, kiosk, informational signs & a free augmented reality phone app.**

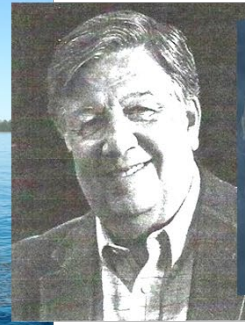
### Wide Support for New Philadelphia Becoming a National Park

**Pam Bowman, Director of Public Lands Policy, National Trust for Historical Preservation:** "Establishing New Philadelphia as a National Historical Park provides an opportunity to share the inspiring stories of this historic town with the public and ensure the site is preserved for continued archaeological study and for future generations to come. We thank you for your leadership on this legislation and look forward to its enactment."

**Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, President, Association for the Study of African American Life and History:** "ASALH commends and wholeheartedly supports Rep. Darin LaHood's efforts [with] legislation to establish the New Philadelphia Historical Park in Illinois as a unit of the National Park Service."

**Randall B. Long, General Manager, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative:** "In 2012, IREC provided \$75,000 in support for site development to the NPA. We strongly feel this site to be worthy of National Park designation and could provide an economic benefit to our region."\*

## Likes Lectures this June: Five freedom stories relating to New Philadelphia



Every June our Likes Lectures tell freedom stories that relate to New Philadelphia. After last year's online success, we gather online again this year to hear five stories, the last told in music. 7 pm Tuesdays. For zoom details, write to [newphiladelphiaill@gmail.com](mailto:newphiladelphiaill@gmail.com).

**June 1: Archaeological Perspectives on New Philadelphia with Terrance J. Martin, Ph.D.** From 2002 through 2011, NPA partnered with seven colleges and universities, the Illinois State Museum, the National Science Foundation and several state, and county agencies. We found building foundations, cellars, wells, cisterns, a lime slacking pit and 150,000 artifacts. They tell about families, occupations, regional backgrounds, foodways, and the community's role in the global economy as well as in our freedom journey. Terrance J. Martin of the Illinois State Museum co-directed all this and will recount highlights.

**June 8: Ann Bradford Stokes, Civil War Nurse, with Marlene Rivero.** New Philadelphia was part of a network of Illinois freedom activists. African-American Ann Bradford Stokes (1833-1903) worked aboard the Navy's first hospital ship Red Rover, out of Mound City, Illinois. She occasionally stayed in the Mound City contraband camp which was home to more than 2,000 freedom seekers. On board ship she was cook, laundress, mender, and eventually nurse. Only after the Civil War did she learn to read and write.

In a fascinating reenactment, retired U.S. Forest Service interpreter Marlene Rivero will breathe life into Ann Stokes and her story. We thank Illinois Humanities for an Activate History microgrant for this talk.

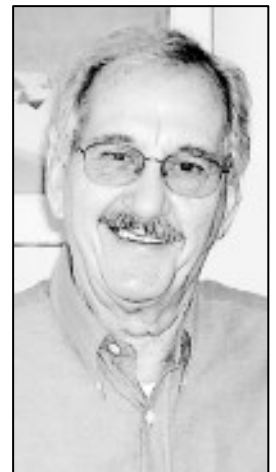
**June 15: Did Black Lives Matter in Early Illinois? Voices from the Brink of Slavery and Freedom with Dr. Caroline M. Kiesel.** Frank McWorter located his town in geographical crux of freedom and slavery. In 1818, Illinois entered the United States with a Constitution declaring itself a free state, following the guidance of the 1787 Northwest Ordinance, which outlawed slavery north of the Ohio River. But slavery's roots went back centuries in the region. Some advocated for a permanent constitutional

change to allow slavery. Others stood up against them, preserving the free state of Illinois we know. Public historian Caroline M. Kiesel performs and presents six people who argued one or the other side of this crucial conflict.

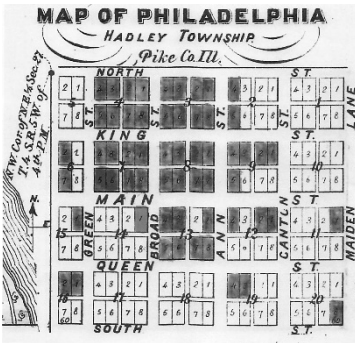
**June 22: New Philadelphia, IL, and Pleasant Ridge, WI: Slavery and Freedom in the Antebellum Midwest with Eugene Tesdahl.** Pleasant Ridge was an 1848 settlement of free Black people not too far from a northern site of slavery. The enslaved worked in the lead mines--one mine actually owned by the then-governor. How did free Black families live and work so close to that affront to their safety—and Wisconsin law? How did they relate to enslaved family members back in Virginia? Dr. Tesdahl, professor of history at University of Wisconsin-Platteville, will also compare Pleasant Ridge to New Philadelphia.

**June 29: 1820-1920 "Household" Music Making led by William Camphouse.** New Philadelphia was a music making town, and this program brings us those sounds. The Pike Pipers recorder ensemble and vocalist Cleve Curry will perform popular music that was often live home entertainment. This includes tunes relating to the Civil War, sentimental parlor ballads by Steven Foster, and a stirring patriotic march from the creative pen of someone who lived and composed in New Philadelphia, Hermes Zimmerman. Pike Countian William Camphouse has engaged in music making his whole life, proving that meaningful music is a powerful communicative device for the enlightenment and pleasure of humankind.

The Likes Lectures are named to honor surveyors Marvin Likes (right) and son Tom who donated so much time and talent to New Philadelphia.✱



# New Philadelphia Association PO Box 54 Barry, Illinois 62312



**New Philadelphia** in west central Illinois was the first U.S. town platted and legally registered 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 Student Archaeologists: Where Are They Now?

Jill Scott worked at New Philadelphia as a field school student in 2005 while an undergraduate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2006 she earned her BA in Anthropology and spent the next two summers conducting paleoanthropological fieldwork in South Africa in search of fossil humans.

Jill continued this focus in her graduate studies, and in 2009, earned her MA in Anthropology from the University of Iowa where her research centered on Pleistocene Homo craniomandibular anatomy. As a result of her track record, in 2014 she was selected for a team of early career scientists who analyzed, described, and named the newly discovered South African hominin species, *Homo naledi*.

Shortly thereafter, Jill moved to Denver, CO and in 2016 became the Laboratory Coordinator in the



**Work at New Philadelphia laid the basis for Jill Scott to participate in dramatic new findings on early hominids in South Africa.**

Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Jill credits her experiences excavating at New Philadelphia and subsequently cataloguing and analyzing site artifacts at the Illinois State Museum as foundational to her anthropological career. Not only did she learn valuable fieldwork and lab skills that have served her in her paleoanthropological research, but she continues using these skills in her current position at MSU Denver, where she cares for many historic and prehistoric archaeological, ethnographic, and comparative collections from across North America and beyond. As for connecting her story with Frank McWorter and New Philadelphia in 2021, Jill says, "I'm quite honored."\*



**Jill in foreground at New Philadelphia. Teams found 150,000 artifacts and plant and animal remains. They are at the Illinois State Museum with some on loan to the Smithsonian Museum of American History.**