

Worman's Mill Civic Association

JANUARY 20 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Underground Railroad in Maryland:

Peter Michael

Over seventy people were in attendance at the Worman's Mill Club House to listen to Peter Michael speak about the underground railroad, an avenue to freedom for escaped slaves. His ancestors sheltered these "freedom seekers," in a spring house on his property, Cooling Springs Farm. Tours of Cooling Springs Farm and its Underground Railroad safe-house can be arranged by appointment. 301 | 874 | 0235 or ugrr@coolingsprings.org See <http://www.coolingsprings.org/> Mr Michael's life long commitment to a study of the underground railroad is reflected in a number of books he has written on the subject, including *Guide to Freedom: Rediscovering the Underground Railroad in One United States County* and *An American Family of the Underground Railroad: The Story of One Family's Experience as Safe-House Operators*. Both of these books can be ordered on Amazon. He also is publisher of the Underground Railroad Free Press (<http://www.urrfreepress.com/>).

Mr. Michael's slide show presentation lasted over an hour. The main take-away from the presentation was the fact that since the underground railroad was secret, written records about it have always been scarce. Reliance on oral history has been paramount in creating the historical record. It is estimated that there are as many as 60 sites in Frederick County that served in the underground railroad.

Other organizations that keep underground railroad memories alive include:

National Park Service Underground Railroad Freedom Center

<http://www.nps.gov/subjects/ugrr/index.htm>

National Museum of African American Culture and History <http://nmaahc.si.edu/>

Harriet Tubman National Monument <http://www.nps.gov/hatu/index.htm>

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park

<http://dnr2.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/eastern/tubman.aspx>

For further information on the underground railroad , you can refer to a book recommended by Mr. Michael: *Bound for Canaan: The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad, America's First Civil Rights Movement*, by Fergus M. Bordewich. It is also available from Amazon.

The next meeting of the Civic Association will be on March 29. Guest speaker will be Congressman John Delaney, Representative for Maryland's 6th congressional district.