



The Center for
Anti-Slavery Studies

75 CHURCH STREET
MONTROSE, PENNSYLVANIA 18801
WWW.ANTISLAVERYSTUDIES.ORG

LACKAWANNA
Heritage Valley

A State and National Heritage Area

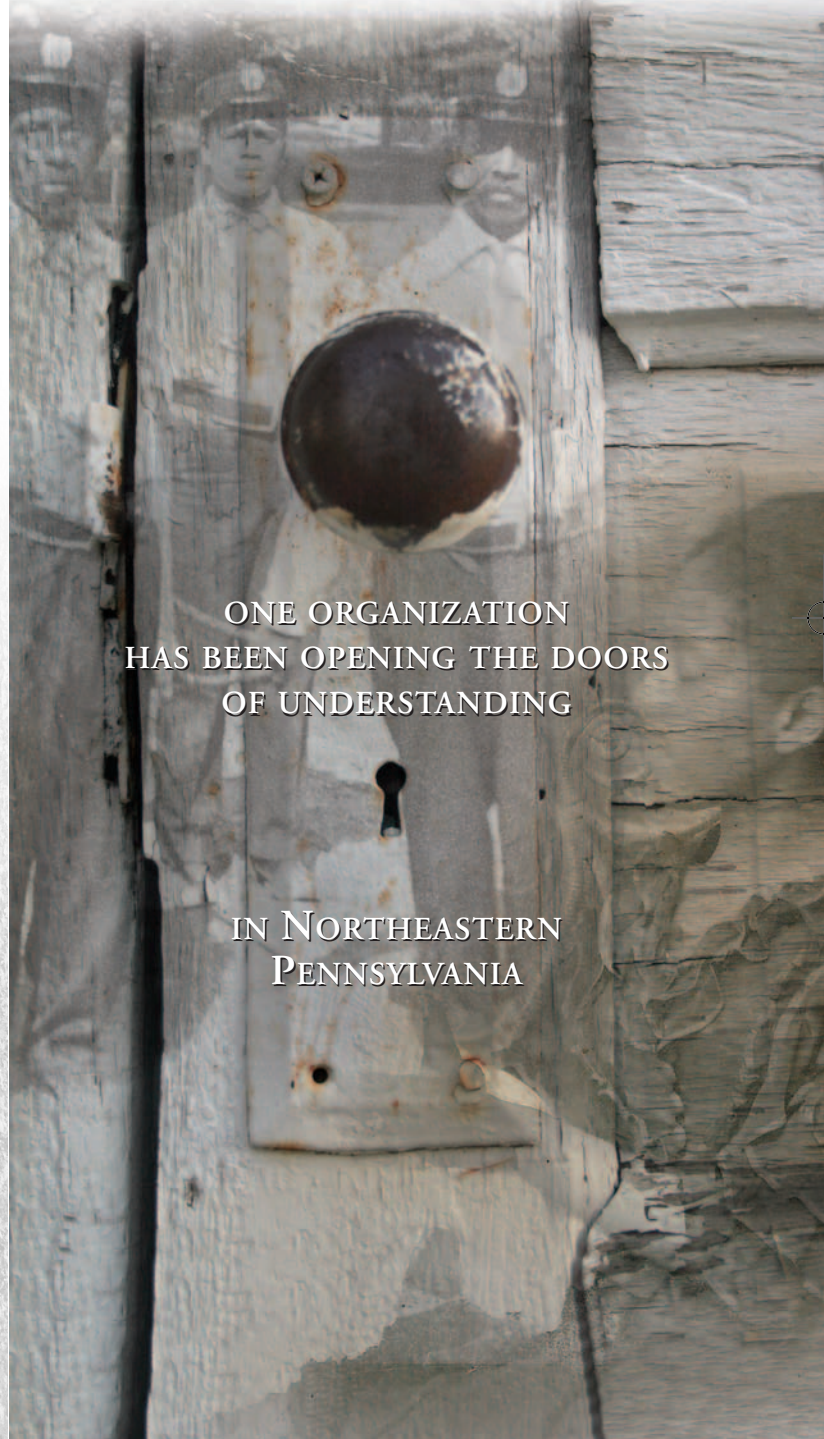
Printed with assistance from CASS partner,
the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority



The Center for
Anti-Slavery Studies
MONTROSE, PENNSYLVANIA

ONE ORGANIZATION
HAS BEEN OPENING THE DOORS
OF UNDERSTANDING

IN NORTHEASTERN
PENNSYLVANIA





Linking Our Past

The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies (CASS) is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 dedicated to historic research, preservation, and public programming. CASS is focused on the period of 1800 to 1900, specifically the activities surrounding the Anti-Slavery Movement as it came to pass in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Promoting Historical Research

CASS works closely with interested individuals, families and partner organizations to find the physical documentation and historic sites relevant to the Anti-Slavery Movement in Pennsylvania's northeast.

Preserving Relevant History

Photo courtesy of the Thompson/Reid Family Photo Collection

By working hand-in-hand with community partners and funders, CASS is able to preserve evidence of this region's rich history and offer technical assistance to those seeking to preserve the legacy of their family or the history of their community.

*Mrs. Susan Hogan Young
Wilkes Barre Pa.*



You Hold the Key

Invest in the Future by Preserving the Past

Help us ensure the preservation of a long-overlooked part of our region's history.

Please mark the membership level that best suits you.

- Student \$20.00
- Senior \$25.00
- Individual \$35.00
- Supporter \$50.00
- Family \$75.00
- Patron \$100.00
- Corporate \$500.00
- Lifetime \$1000.00
- Other \$ _____

- Please contact me to discuss the benefits of joining "Friends of CASS" as a special donor.
- Please contact me to discuss volunteer opportunities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

If you requested to be contacted.

- Please include me when sending CASS email updates to the community.

CASS is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization.

Membership

*Where Individual Actions
Make All the Difference*



with Our Potential

grassroots • noun
1 People or society at a local level instead of the political center
2 The groundwork or source



When you become a member of CASS, you become part of a community partnership that helps us all understand the past and shape the future.

This partnership is made of an extraordinary group of committed individuals whose generous support helps fund new and invigorating research into this region's Anti-Slavery and Underground Railroad activities.

Your tax-deductible donation helps to fund research, educational outreach, special exhibitions and the preservation of historic sites.

Acquiring Sites for Preservation

Many important sites that bear witness to this region's Underground Railroad history are in danger of being lost to time. CASS works to identify, acquire and preserve these sites for future generations.

Educating the Public

People enjoy hearing history where it happened. CASS engages in a host of public education initiatives: school programs, lectures and seminars, conferences, historic marker erections, walking tours, motorcoach tours, exhibits, publications, and public forums.



CASS' Mission:

To promote historical study and research

To discover, collect, preserve, and publish history relative to the Anti-Slavery Movement activities in Northeastern Pennsylvania during the period from 1800-1900

To acquire and carefully preserve relevant sites by donation, bequest, or purchase

To educate the general public through interpretive programs, exhibitions, and publications

Preservation *Digging Deep to Find Out*

Community

Conducting *Historical Research*

School children in Springville pause for a photograph and provide evidence of an integrated educational system in the late 1800's

CASS is dedicated to exploring the ways in which people lived and worked together in this region, examining the social, civic, economic, political, spiritual and even geographical factors that encouraged both free blacks and escaped slaves to settle in the hills of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



Providing Technical Support to Families and Organizations

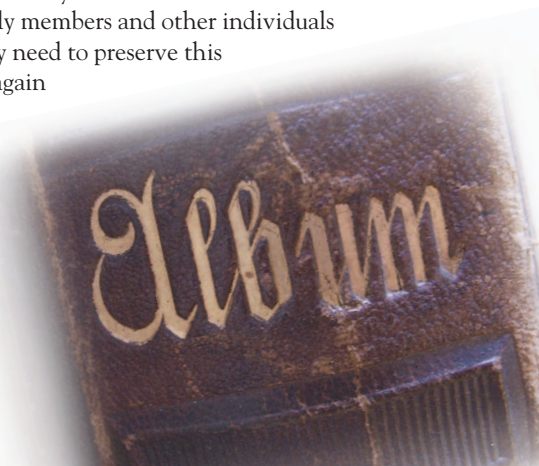
Sherman Wooden, CASS president, presents gift to board officers of the Bradford County Historical Society in Towanda, PA.



Many local organizations are working hard to preserve historic and cultural resources, but are struggling with similar challenges. CASS takes time to build strong relationships and then slowly draws partner organizations together to work regionally – utilizing their combined strengths to maximize the benefit to our communities. CASS also offers specialized programs, trainings and incentives so that each organization can capitalize on new resources made available through initiatives like “The Place I Call Home.”

Assistance with preservation of family photo albums is just one of many ways CASS works with families to preserve their heritage.

Local people are the heart of CASS' vision for community. Many families in Pennsylvania's Northeast had ancestors who were part of the region's Anti-Slavery movement. CASS is dedicated to providing these family members and other individuals with the support they need to preserve this vital legacy. CASS again takes the time to build each relationship, listen to each family's need, and respectfully assist them in their efforts to do research, catalog assets, procuring funding and more.



CASS hopes to correct the revisionist history that excluded African-Americans from their rightful place in our regional history by looking at the character of local communities.

What was their relationship with the black citizens and neighborhoods in their midst? Let's also ask the question so rarely discussed when talking about the Underground Railroad: After the escape, what happened next?

Special Initiatives

Working to Build a Sense of

Who We Are

“The Place I Call Home: Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Underground Railroad History”

This special project started with a question: Why was there such a significant African American population in the small town of Montrose in the 1800’s? Many were people who had been formerly enslaved but who escaped and came here. Why? What was it about this region that caused them to stay here and build a new life? Shown here: Montrose firemen from the late 1800’s.



“The Place I Call Home” is an ambitious project whose goal is to research, preserve and interpret Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Underground Railroad history. The compelling story of Northeastern

Pennsylvania’s role in the Anti-Slavery movement will contribute significantly to understanding the Commonwealth’s vital role during this national struggle for equality.

The five-year project, scheduled for completion in 2008, will present this history to local audiences as well as to visitors using a variety of components:

- A Traveling Exhibit and Companion Web Site
- Educational Materials and DVD
- A Series of Books and Related Publications
- A Variety of Public Programs

Preservation of Historical Assets

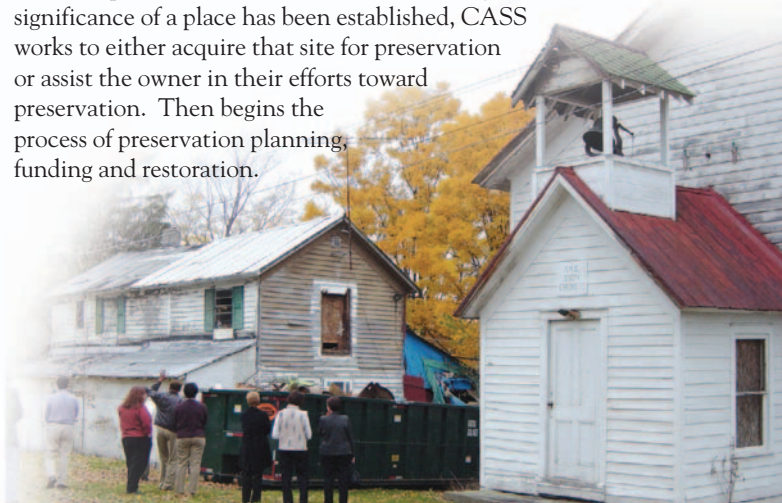
The Anti-Slavery Movement in this region can best be found through items of everyday life – simple things that document the lives people lived in our communities.



Evidence of Underground Railroad and Abolition activities can be found in many places. Family photo albums and papers, church and court records, newspaper clippings, civic organization rolls, industry payroll ledgers and much more. Helping families and organizations understand and preserve these assets has become a major part of CASS’ vital work.

The William Smith house, below, was built after he escaped from slavery and came to live in Montrose. Soon, others who escaped built homes nearby and the AME Zion Church was erected as a place for worship.

The story of the Anti-Slavery movement in this area is one of community life, so our Underground Railroad sites are often common places – a home, a church, a cemetery. Once the significance of a place has been established, CASS works to either acquire that site for preservation or assist the owner in their efforts toward preservation. Then begins the process of preservation planning, funding and restoration.



Public Access

Bringing Real People Out of the Dust of History

Engaging Our Communities

Increasing community awareness of our rich heritage is an ongoing initiative to which CASS is passionately dedicated so that people like Henrietta Cooper of Towanda, PA, can be remembered.

Photo: Bradford County Historical Society's Ott & Hay Glass Plate Negative Collection



How does CASS stimulate interest in and hunger for a relatively unknown piece of local history? Through newspaper articles, radio interviews, television programs, local news coverage and more. Keeping in touch with interested community members via email updates, mailings and a web site helps people realize that each one of us plays a vital role in preserving and celebrating our region's history.

Much is accomplished when people gather together. Public gatherings in the 1800's were instrumental in the Anti-Slavery Movement and CASS continues the tradition of bringing people together for a purpose. Town Hall meetings, conferences, book reading groups, public programs and bake sales are just some of the ways that CASS acts as a catalyst for civic engagement, giving people a reason to come together once again.

Making History Accessible

CASS worked to dedicate a historical marker, erected in Springville, PA, to honor Judge Jonathan Jasper Wright. The son of escaped slaves, he was the first black Judge in Pennsylvania and the first African-American US Appellate Judge in the United States.

Historic markers help a community remember certain events and people of importance to them. Markers also invite people passing through an area to stop awhile and learn about what happened there. CASS works to research and nominate stories for remembrance in the Commonwealth's historic marker program. CASS also assists other organizations in their efforts to erect markers in their communities.

A group learns about the mechanism of this region's Underground Railroad and Abolition activities during CASS' annual "Experience the Underground Railroad" held at Old Mill Village in New Milford, PA

Since each person has different interests and learning styles, CASS presents a wide array of public programs for all ages, from interactive walking and motorcoach tours to academic seminars and conferences. CASS also brings history to the public via traveling exhibits, publications and commemorative events. Members are often out in the community setting up booths at country fairs and gatherings, or giving educational programs at schools, libraries, churches and community centers.

