



News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

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**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES AWARDS GRANT
TO SALEM COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION**

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Beth Timberman, liaison to the Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission, today announced that the Commission has been awarded a grant of \$19,811 from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities to support “Seven Steps to Freedom,” a new interpretive program focusing on the Underground Railroad and Salem County’s African-American history.

“Salem County played a significant role in the abolition of slavery, but with few exceptions those stories have not been widely told,” said Freeholder Timberman. “This program will bring this rich history to light and make it easily available.”

The centerpiece of “Seven Steps to Freedom” is a cellphone audiotour focusing on stories of people and events at seven locations in Salem County. Visitors to these locations simply dial the posted number and listen to a professionally recorded story of people and events that took place there during the Ante-Bellum period.

“The County’s remarkably preserved towns and countryside provide an impressive backdrop for these stories,” said Timberman. “It is easy to imagine what happened here before the Civil War – the setting enhances the stories.”

In addition to the audiotour, the project includes a dedicated website that will provide additional information, an on-line exhibition, maps, podcasts and curriculum resources. All these materials are being developed in partnership with New Jersey Network, bringing to the project award-winning media experience.

Project planning began in 2009, with a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to New Jersey Network. Academic and Community Advisory Boards met through the winter resulting in site and story selections and overall project content.

“We plan on launching the program in July 2011 to coincide with the Civil War Sesquicentennial celebration,” said Timberman. “We are grateful to the New Jersey Council for the Humanities for their generous support for the project.”



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The Council was established in 1972 as a state council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A non-profit organization, the Council serves the people of New Jersey by developing, supporting and promoting projects that explore and interpret the human experience, foster cross-cultural understanding, and engage people in dialogue about matters of individual choice and public responsibility.

For information about "Seven Steps to Freedom" contact James F. Turk, Director of Cultural Affairs & Tourism Information Services (856-935-7510 x 8384; james.turk@salemcountynj.gov).