



The Friends of Freedom Society, Inc.
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2012 Officers:
Cathy Nelson, President
Matt Mathews, Vice President
Monique Mapp, Secretary
Marla Jones, Treasurer
John Mattox, Historian

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Cathy D. Nelson. I am the founder and president emeritus of the Friends of Freedom Society, Inc. (FOFS), a nineteenth century historical research organization, whose main focus is Underground Railroad research. I also founded the Ohio Underground Railroad Association, an organization comprised of regional coordinators and county researchers from around the state whose task is to research, document, and preserve the rich history of the Underground Railroad in Ohio.

In early August of this year, I was invited to give an Underground Railroad presentation in Madison at its annual fair. Before speaking, Erin Cicero took me to see the recent condition of the Unionville Tavern. In the 1990's, I had dined there, viewed the tunnels below that runaway slaves used to escape to freedom, and to present our Historic UGRR Site Flag to the tavern. Suffice it to say, I was horrified at the deterioration of this local historic landmark, whose history of providing a safe haven for runaway slaves seeking freedom is of national significance.

The FOFS fully supports the preservation efforts of Erin Cicero and her team as the community moves forward to hopefully acquire the Tavern. Your work to restore and preserve this historic structure will be the legacy you leave for generations to come.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614-868-1246. Best wishes in your endeavors.

Respectfully,

Cathy D. Nelson, FOFS Founder