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# Buffalo Quarters Historical Society<sup>©</sup> Newsletter

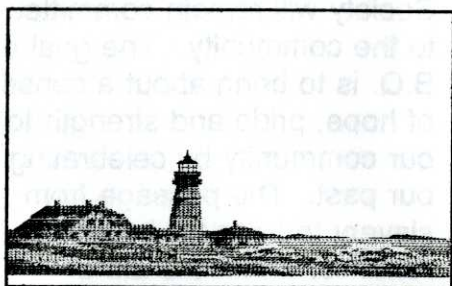
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Volume One Issue One

Editor: R. Adrienne N. Morton

July 1997

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## **A Celebration of Freedom: The Underground Railroad**

The Underground Railroad is an important element of American and African American History. To recognize that African Americans and Europeans worked together prior to the abolitionist movement to assist persons who were legally enslaved, is a part of our history that needs to be recited, rehearsed and shouted from the hilltops.

### *Seeking A Better Life Despite the Odds in Canada*

It is reported that between 1830 and 1850, an estimated 30,000 slaves of African descent made their way to freedom from the Deep South of the United States. Many of the slaves that passed through the Niagara Frontier, Erie and Niagara counties, crossed by boat and/or bridge to seek a new life on the shores of Canada. We do not know how they accomplished such a task in the face of such formidable odds, but we do know what

motivated them...a human drive for freedom. A sense of decency and a love of humanity encouraged many people to aid these run away slaves. These people, the travelers on the Underground Railroad and those who opened their homes to them are our inspiration and our legacy.

### *The Niagara Frontier - Buffalo Connection*

The Niagara Frontier and especially Buffalo, New York has a rich heritage as it relates to the Underground Railroad. Unfortunately, not many Buffalonians know about it and certainly not many Americans. Under the inspired and committed direction of Ms. Lillian Batchelor, Buffalo Quarters Historical Society was formed to preserve the rich legacy of the Underground Railroad as it relates to the role of Buffalo, New York...The City of Good Neighbors and Southern Ontario.

## **Goals of the Buffalo Quarters Historical Society**

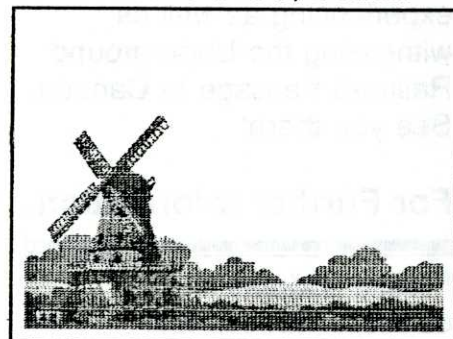
The goals set forth by Ms. Lillian Batchelor towards increasing the awareness of the Underground Railroad are as follows:

1) Increase international awareness to the role Buffalo

played in the Underground Railroad;  
2) expand the research and knowledge base of the Underground railroad and its sites;  
3) promote positive race relations through sharing of rich history in drama, music and literature;  
4) to honor and support unsung heroes in Buffalo who continue to carry the torch of freedom.

## **Noted Members of the Buffalo Quarters Historical Society**

There are many individuals who provide support towards helping to make the goals as well as the Buffalo Quarters a success. They are Lillian Batchelor, Virginia Batchelor, Tonna Batchelor, Mary Beth Boger, Della Cummings, Mary F. Fitzgerald, Cheryl Moore, Dr. Lorna Peterson, Anthony Pressley, Nan Pressley, Deberra Ransom, Ann Smith and Sandy White. Honorary members include Joel Giambra, Council



Member Kevin Helfer of the

University District, Robert Kirkham, Illana Lewis-Lane, Charles Menefee, R. Adrienne Morton and Senator Anthony Nanula.

## **Volunteers Needed**

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Despite the support from our members, we are still in need of volunteers to aid us in making this years presentation a success. All that is required is a few hours of your time. Any services that anyone would provide in making the goals of the Quarters a reality is greatly appreciated.

## **Presentation of the Reenactment of the Runaway Slaves River Crossing**

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This year's the Buffalo Quarters Historical Society presents "Hush, Hush, Somebody's Callin' Mah Name: A Reenactment of A Runaway Slave River Crossing". This historical reenactment will take place on August 9, 1997 at 7pm. The location is at Broderick Park, also known as the 'Foot of Ferry' to many local residents of Buffalo. Please join us in experiencing as well as witnessing the Underground Railroad Passage to Canada. See you there!

## **For Further Information...**

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Please address all correspondences and telephone inquiries to the

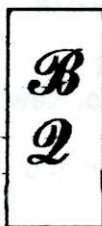
attention of Ms. Lillion Batchelor, Founder  
P.O. Box 1542  
Central Park Station  
Buffalo, New York 14215-1542.  
716- 892 - 8253.



## **A World of Thanks**

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On behalf of the past, in view of the present and in mind of the future, I wish to express my heart-felt thanks to all of you from Southern Ontario and throughout the United States of America as well as to my city of Buffalo. My soul has been touched. Your motivation is well received.



Buffalo Quarters  
Historical Society®  
P.O. Box 1542  
Central Park Plaza  
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Buffalo, New York  
14215-1542

I love you and ask for your continued support. History belongs to all of us. Please see how far we have come. You have my love and best wishes.

Lillion Batchelor, Founder.

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Buffalo Quarters Historical Society will remain committed to the community. The goal of B.Q. is to bring about a sense of hope, pride and strength to our community by celebrating our past. The passage from slavery to freedom by African Americans with the aid of those who valued freedom and dignity for all should not be forgotten.

Let us give honor to the spirits of our ancestors by embracing our past so that we may best determine our future. Here's to positive self-hood!

Virginia Batchelor, President

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This issue is in memory of Mr. Henry P. Cameron. May his soul find peace and rest.

