

New Philadelphia Association News

October 2015



New Philadelphia Annual Meeting

October 27th—6:30 pm

Courtyard Café

Pittsfield, IL

RSVP:

bmiddendorf@2riversrcd.org

or 217-285-2464

From the President's Corner by Philip E. Bradshaw

The New Philadelphia site has had a lot of success in 2015. One of the big accomplishments was the U. S. House and U. S. Senate passed the legislation for a study to show if New Philadelphia qualified to be a unit of the National Park Service. As part of the National Defense Authorization Act, the law signed by President Obama, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine New Philadelphia's qualifications to be designated a unit of the National Park Service.

This legislation was introduced in part by results of a reconnaissance survey requested by then U.S. Senator Roland Burris in 2009. The purpose of the survey was to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the site and to provide recommendations for next steps for the study area. The New Philadelphia Association has filed a point by point response to the reconnaissance survey with the National Park Service. New Philadelphia Director Charlotte King from Maryland wrote the response for the Association.

Everyone needs to be positive and show support for the National Park System team when they come to study the site.

Another accomplishment this year was Claire Martin, New Philadelphia Director and Consultant Terry Martin, wrote and designed signs for New Philadelphia. The Illinois State Museum printed six signs that are now displayed in the kiosk. The signs have really made the site visitor friendly.

Another big addition is the Virtual Reality signs made possible by a grant from the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom written by Claire Martin and acquired with matching funds from Illinois Electric Cooperative. If you have not seen or used your Android to see New Philadelphia as it is believed to be in 1870, you should visit the site.

Solution Printing of Springfield printed and made the Virtual Reality signs. Solution printing is owned and operated by Steve Shelton and son, Greg Shelton. Steve is the son-in-law and Greg is the grandson of NPA founding member, the late Judge Cecil Burrows of Pittsfield. Give Steve and Greg a big thank you!

Another major project for 2016 is Dr. Gerald McWorter, PhD, editing our Arcadia book for New Philadelphia. If you have pictures of New Philadelphia and you think they would be a good addition to the book, please copy and send them to NPA secretary Carol McCartney at: jeffm@adams.net.