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Historical Society Receives Gift from Anti-Slavery Center - 12/22/2005



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Sherman Wooden (second from right), president of The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies (CASS), presents a check for \$500 to members of the Bradford County Historical Society (BCHS) Board of Directors for their participation in the Underground Railroad studies and "The Place I Call Home." Pictured are (from left): Kelsey Jones, Vince Amoroso, Wooden, and Guy Abell.

The Bradford County Historical Society (BCHS) received a gift of \$500 from The Center for Anti-Slavery Studies (CASS) in Montrose on Monday, Dec. 19. The gift recognizes the important role BCHS is playing in a regional history project of national importance. The presentation was made by Sherman Wooden, president of CASS.

BCHS is a major community partner in "The Place I Call Home: Northeastern Pennsylvania's Underground Railroad History." The project is an initiative of CASS, in partnership with Keystone College, to bring the story of the Abolition and Underground Railroad activities in Northeastern Pennsylvania to local, regional and national audiences through a traveling exhibit and multi-media educational programs. The project will also produce a guide on how to conduct Underground Railroad research projects, the first known resource of its kind.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has now twice

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awarded vital funds to this grass-roots effort and has included “The Place I Call Home” as one of the featured projects in their prestigious “We the People” Initiative, a designation given to projects that “explore significant events and themes in our nation’s history and culture, and that advance the knowledge of the principles that define America.” As a further honor, NEH also designated Underground Railroad project as one of “America’s Historic Places.” This project, which explores a relatively unknown chapter of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s history, is one of only nine projects in the country to receive this coveted honor.

The funding and honors were bestowed in part due to the strength and breadth of the project’s community partnerships. The Endless Mountains Heritage Region has long been a supporter of CASS initiatives. The Bradford County Historical Society is a vital community partner, providing research assistance, meeting space for public programs, technical assistance, and more.

Wooden, a native of Susquehanna County, says the project is a natural extension of CASS’s work to preserve the history and stimulate discussion about the Anti-Slavery movement in this region.

“We are committed to telling the story of African American presence and contributions in this area,” he says, “but by telling our story and examining what really happened here, we see the greater truth—that this is not simply a black history story, it is American history.”

For more information on “The Place I Call Home: Northeastern Pennsylvania’s Underground Railroad History” and related news and events, call 877-772-6084 or visit www.antislaverystudies.org.

