

*Wildhorse Creek runs along the south boundary of the Stevenson farmstead. Photo courtesy of Flisa Stevenson.*

someone new in their community, “Who are your people?”

When the Federal government expelled the so-called Five Civilized Tribes from their traditional homes in the eastern United States, they took the enslaved Africans they owned with them to new lands in the West. Indian Territory, which was carved out of lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, roughly consisted of the eastern half of present day Oklahoma. This forced migration to the government-established Indian Territory provides a wealth of documentary evidence, including census data, field reports, and land allotment records produced by the United States government.

The Chickasaw Indians were among the Five Civilized Tribes, and were slaveholders. When the Civil War ended, it took another treaty (the Treaty of 1866) to free the enslaved within Indian Territory. Among the stipulations was to free the Africans held in bondage in all tribes and adopt them as citizens with full rights in their respective nations. However, the Chickasaw did not want the freedmen living among them and asked the United States to remove the freedmen from their nation. Chickasaw freedmen found themselves a people disenfranchised in the nation of their birth.

The native-born freedmen did not want to leave the land that was their homeland for several decades. They had bonded with the land, and for the most part identified with the Chickasaw customs and lifeways in which they had been raised. By 1882, many black Chickasaw had been born free, but the elder freedmen were born in the Chickasaw Nation after removal to Indian Territory. Despite attempts by the Chickasaw to oust them, the freedmen tena-



ciously held their position in the Chickasaw country, until they became citizens of the United States in 1907.

Fleet Stevenson, Jr., grew up on a farmstead in former Chickasaw country, near Wildhorse Creek, until 1954. He has always said his family’s land came from Indians. A review of historical records indicates that his great-grandfather, Dave Stevenson, was a freedmen descendant of Lanie Stevenson, a slave and half-blood Chickasaw in Mississippi. Her sons Dick, Joe, and Dave Stevenson settled in Indian Territory near Wildhorse Creek. Several generations of Stevensons were born and raised in this area. Thus, the Stevensons’ claim to African-Native American heritage was substantiated.

Although the built environment has the capacity to serve as a repository of our collective and individual history and memory, following the genealogy trail through a place acknowledges the presence of the intangible, the interweaving of memory and experience, to reveal the people who contributed to its making.

Understanding Wildhorse Creek, and other places related to African American-Native American commingled heritage, requires address-

ing the gap in historical knowledge concerning Native Americans as slaveholders, and African Americans’ relationship to land. Exploring issues of spatial identity, using the genealogy trail gave focus to the documentary evidence. The personal histories expressed by the members of this black frontier society, shaping space in the land they were born to, called home and struggled to keep, give it significance.

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## Conferences

***Protecting Our Diverse Heritage: The Role of Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, GWS/CR2003 Joint Conference***

On April 14-18, 2003, the George Wright Society (GWS) and the National Park Service (NPS) will hold a joint conference of natural and cultural resource professionals in San Diego, California. “Protecting Our Diverse Heritage” incorporates two conferences on parks and cultural resources. The GWS Biennial Conference is the largest interdisciplinary conference on research and resource management on protected

## CONFERENCES, PUBLICATIONS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Publications

### *Teaching Materials: Cultural Heritage Preservation Course Outline*

The course outline for "Teaching Cultural Heritage Preservation" is now available from the National Center for Cultural Resources, National Park Service. This course outline developed from the meeting of the Curriculum Forum in Baltimore, Maryland, in April 2001. The forum members developed this outline as a model for an undergraduate course that could be taught at minority colleges and universities. The course outline is arranged in three units: 1) Place and Culture, 2) Power and Politics, and 3) Process and Profession. Learning Objectives, Learning Activities, and Learning Resources are provided for each unit.

The purpose of the course is to introduce diverse students to the cultural heritage preservation field; increase the number of diverse individuals in cultural heritage work; and increase the number of professional historians, curators, historical architects, archeologists, etc., in this area of work who reflect the diverse and multicultural character of 21st century America. This course outline was a cooperative project of Coppin State University, Goucher College, and Morgan State University, all of Baltimore, Maryland, and the National Park Service.

Copies of the course outline are available from: Michele Gates Moresi, 202/354-2266, e-mail: [michele\\_gates\\_moresi@contractor.nps.gov](mailto:michele_gates_moresi@contractor.nps.gov). It also is available on the website for the Cultural Resources Diversity Program: [www.cr.nps.gov/crdi](http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi), click: "Colleges and Universities."

### *Sento at Sixth and Main: Preserving Landmarks of Japanese American Heritage*

Combining in-depth research on historic places, personal memories

areas in the nation. NPS "Cultural Resources 2003: A Conference for the National Park Service and its Partners" is the second in a series of nationwide forums for discussing how to increase awareness of the value of cultural resources and strengthen communication among NPS cultural resources staff and NPS partners.

Proposals for papers, posters, concurrent sessions, workshops, side/affinity meetings, computer demos, and exhibits are being accepted. Complete details are available through the joint conference website at <http://www.georgewright.org/2003.html>.

For more information, call 906/487-9722, or e-mail: [info@georgewright.org](mailto:info@georgewright.org).

### *20th International Conference on the History of Cartography*

The biennial International Conferences on the History of Cartography (ICHC), under the auspices of *Imago Mundi: International Journal for the History of Cartography*, will take place June 15-20, 2003, at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the University of Southern Maine, in Portland, Maine. The conference will be held June 15-17, 2003, in the Harvard Map Collection at Harvard University, and June 18-20, in the Osher Map Library at the University of Southern Maine.

Conference themes are as follows: cartography, states, and empires; cartographic literacy and culture; cartography and commerce; and other topics in the history of cartography. ICHC 2003 will also include three workshops on issues

relating to the history of cartography, several associated cartographic exhibitions, an extensive social program, and activities for accompanying persons.

Persons interested in submitting a paper, poster, or session idea can send the proposal, via e-mail to [oml@usm.maine.edu](mailto:oml@usm.maine.edu), or on disk to ICHC 2003 Program Committee, c/o Osher Map Library, University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME 04104-9301. Full details of conference activities, together with registration forms, are available at [www.ichc2003.org](http://www.ichc2003.org).

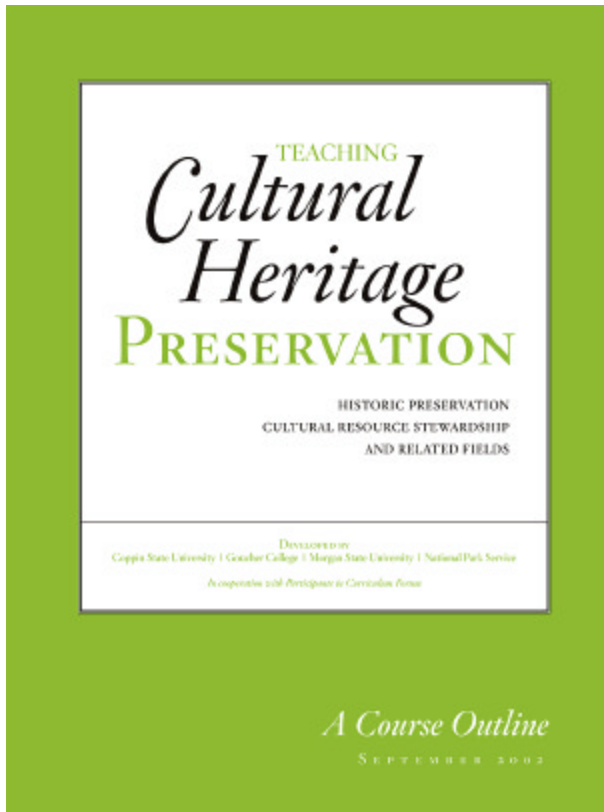
For any additional questions regarding the conference, contact [info@ichc2003.org](mailto:info@ichc2003.org).

### *Association for the Study of African American Life and History 88th National Meeting*

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) will host its annual meeting September 23-28, 2003, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The theme will be "The Souls of Black Folks," to commemorate the 100th anniversary of W.E.B. Du Bois's book. It will feature the latest scholarship on African American history, culture, politics, and society.

Meeting organizers are currently accepting paper proposals that explore aspects of the theme of Du Bois's seminal work and of the meeting. Proposals must include session participants, paper titles, and an abstract of the presentation. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2003.

For more information on proposals, contact Dr. Fancille Rusan Wilson, c/o ASALH, 7961 Eastern Avenue, Suite 301, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or e-mail: [asalh2003@aasp.umd.edu](mailto:asalh2003@aasp.umd.edu).



The Teaching Cultural Heritage Preservation Course Outline is available through the National Park Service.

drawn from oral histories of Japanese Americans, and striking vintage photographs, *Sento at Sixth and Main: Preserving Landmarks of Japanese American Heritage* explores the previously undocumented built environment and cultural landscape associated with once familiar aspects of Japanese American life—community halls, farms, lumber camps, temples, schools, hospitals, midwiferies, bowling alleys, and the Japanese-style public bathhouses known as *sento*.

By calling attention to ten places significant in Japanese American heritage on the West Coast, and presenting evidence of the vast array of resources that await further study, *Sento at Sixth and Main* makes a case for protecting the remaining landmarks. *Sento at Sixth and Main*

was written by Gail Dubrow, an Associate Professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington, and Donna Graves, a writer and cultural planner.

*The Heritage and Culture of African Americans in Virginia: A Guide to the Sites*

Every other year, the Virginia Tourism Corporation publishes a comprehensive inventory of sites of importance to African American heritage throughout the state. *The Heritage and Culture of African Americans in Virginia: A Guide to the Sites* contains suggested itineraries and descriptions of historical sites, museums, and churches, as well as maps of the state's eight regions.

A directory to the African American Heritage Theme Tours through several cities is included in the guide. The guide contains a short history of African Americans in Virginia written by Edgar A. Toppin, retired dean of Virginia State University's Graduate Program and author of books on African Americans in the United States. Copies are available through the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Contact Bruce Twyman at 804/371-8234, e-mail: [btwyman@virginia.org](mailto:btwyman@virginia.org).

*Slavery in Connecticut*

The *Hartford Courant's* Sunday magazine, *Northeast Magazine*, published a special issue September 29, 2002, called, "Complicity: How Connecticut Chained Itself to Slavery." A series of essays, totaling 80 pages, explore the state's slave past, a little-known yet significant aspect of the region's history. Responding to comments that local, well-established companies had connections to slavery, the editors consulted with scholars and the

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in New York to learn more about the broader context of slavery in the 17th and 18th centuries and the economic links between Connecticut industries and slavery well into the 19th century.

The essays in "Complicity" cover a range of topics including: ongoing archeological and museum research projects, ivory businesses that flourished in the late 19th century, runaway slave advertisements, and how prominent leaders of the state benefited from the slave economy and helped to preserve slavery in the south. The result is an unflinching examination of slave labor in Connecticut, an area rarely associated with slavery and usually considered a "free state."

The *Hartford Courant* is the nation's longest continuously published newspaper. It has long been an advocate for historic preservation, and was recognized with an award for its efforts by the National Trust for Historic Places at its annual meeting in Cleveland. The special issue is available on the newspaper website ([www.ctnow.com](http://www.ctnow.com)) at: <http://www.ctnow.com/news/local/northeast/hc-slavery.special>.

*African Reflections on the American Landscape: Identifying and Interpreting Africanisms*

*African Reflections on the American Landscape: Identifying and Interpreting Africanisms* highlights West and Central African cultural contributions to the nation's built environment that has been documented and recognized in the cultural resources programs of the National Park Service (NPS). This guide to Africanisms forms part of the larger effort of NPS and its partners to increase awareness of the role of various cultural groups in shaping the American landscape.

This publication is intended to support historic preservation and cultural resources stewardship efforts of organizations and individuals within their communities. It is designed for the general reader,

without a background in Africanisms or West and Central African history and cultural practices. This document includes: an introductory essay that summarizes Africanisms and their origins; an annotated discussion of historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, designated as National Historic Landmarks, and documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record (all programs of the National Park Service); examples of historic sites where African cultural heritage is interpreted; a bibliography of well-known publications on the topic; and more complete list of historic properties documented by National Park Service cultural resources programs, arranged by program and state.

*African Reflections on the American Landscape* will be available in early winter of 2003. For copies, please contact Brian Joyner at 202/354-2276, e-mail: [brian\\_joyner@nps.gov](mailto:brian_joyner@nps.gov).

## Announcements

### **2003 Preservation Technology and Training Grants**

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) announces its 2003 Preservation Technology and Training Grants in historic preservation. NCPTT is a National Park Service initiative to advance the practice of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture, and materials conservation. Proposals will be considered that address critical challenges to the preservation of our nation's cultural heritage through the innovative application of advances in science and technology.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, pending the avail-

ability of funds.

The proposal deadline is February 1, 2003. The complete 2003 PTTGrants Call for Proposals—including instructions on how to prepare and submit applications—is available via NCPTT's website at <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov>, or by contacting NCPTT at 645 College Avenue, Natchitoches, LA, 71457; phone: 318/356-7444.

### **Growing Up in Washington Receives Two Awards**

The Historical Society of Washington, DC is the recipient of two awards for the *Growing Up in Washington* exhibit and book. Both the exhibit and the book focus on and record the similarities and differences of childhood experiences and the importance of place among the diverse population of the nation's capital over the course of a century.

*Growing Up in Washington* was awarded the American Association of State and Local History's (AASLH) Certificate of Commendation and the Oral History Association's Elizabeth B. Mason Project Award, in 2002. The book is available through Arcadia Publishing.

For more information, visit the Historical Society of Washington, DC website at [www.hswdc.org](http://www.hswdc.org).

### **El Río Opening in February 2003**

The Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage announces the opening of *El Río*—a traveling exhibition that explores the complex relationship between local culture and sustainable environment in the Río Grande/Río Bravo Basin. This area extends from Colorado to New Mexico and Texas and into five Mexican states. *El Río* is designed with and for grassroots communities

and groups to provide the public with an interactive experience and encourage a better understanding of the ecosystem in this diverse region.

The exhibit opens February 6, 2003, in Washington, DC, and will travel to museums and cultural centers throughout the project area for the next four years. Dates and locations for Mexican sites are still being negotiated. It will feature regional music and performances, and offer public programming with traditional practitioners and artists.

For more information, contact Olivia Cadaval at [cadavalo@si.edu](mailto:cadavalo@si.edu) or visit the website at [www.folklife.si.edu](http://www.folklife.si.edu).



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## Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and the values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service also cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Heritage Matters, sponsored by the Cultural Resources Programs of the National Park Service, is published twice-a-year and is free of charge. Readers are invited to submit short articles and notices for inclusion. (Limit submissions to fewer than 600 words and include author's name and affiliation. Black and white photographs or color slides are welcome.) Please submit newsletter items in writing or electronically to: Brian D. Joyner, Editor, *Heritage Matters*, DOI/National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW (2251), Washington, DC 20240. Phone: 202/354-2276, email: [brian\\_joyner@nps.gov](mailto:brian_joyner@nps.gov).

Visit the Web site for the NPS Cultural Resources Diversity Initiative:  
[www.cr.nps.gov/crdi](http://www.cr.nps.gov/crdi)