

1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse
Annual Report, 2009

"Religion has been emphatically embodied, not in speculative theories, but in practical righteousness, in active virtues, in reverence to God, in benevolence to man--the latter being the only sure test of the former."

Thomas M'Clintock, Clerk, Genesee Yearly Meeting of Friends
"To the 'Association of Friends for advocating the cause of the slave, and improving the condition of the Free People of Color,'" *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, July 16, 1840



Farmington Meetinghouse, c. 1920

Under the direction of an active and enthusiastic Steering Committee, Board of Trustees, and National Advisory Board, we have made excellent progress in 2009 in several areas. Most importantly, with the help of John G. Waite Associates and Wolfe House and Building Movers, we have begun final stabilization of the Meetinghouse, preparatory to its move next summer. This is the result of much hard work in many areas.



December 15, 2009



December 1, 2009
Photo by Peter Ingalsbe

Organization. In May, the New York State Board of Regents approved our application for a new not-for-profit museum, the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse. The new Board (made up of Helen Kirker, President; Rich Regen, Vice-President; Francis Caraccilo, Carol Elaine Deys, Billie Luisi-Potts, and Stephen Lewandowski) worked with the Steering Committee to develop a strategic plan. This group will be cooperating with the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Foundation (which saved and now owns the building) to carry out restoration of the Meetinghouse, including plans for sustainable energy use. Thanks to Alaine Espenscheid, our lawyer, for shepherding us through this process.

Advisory Board. We have added several new members to our National Advisory Board this year, including Barbara Hamlin, philanthropic advisor, with special interests in cultural and environmental issues; Carol Kammen, nationally known author and historian, specializing in local history methodology and women's history; Murray Gould, founder of Port City Preservation in Oswego, New York, specializing in restoration and adaptive reuse of historic properties; and Jeff Regen, Vice President of Online Marketing & Communications, Defenders of Wildlife, Washington, D.C. Many thanks to all Advisory Board members.

Public Programs. We created a new brochure and two tri-fold exhibits, and we held outreach programs for the Ganondagon Festival, Canandaigua Treaty celebration, New York Yearly Meeting of Friends at Silver Bay, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting; and local historians from throughout the region. We also prepared a collection of quotations from people associated with the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse. We continue to update our website, with the help of Dave Cocuzzi, of Clear Path Studios, at www.farmingtonmeetinghouse.org.



Local Historians at Farmington, July 2009

Political Outreach. We worked with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and Senator Hillary Clinton on the National Women's History Project Act, which passed Congress in March. We expect this will link the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse to other women's rights historical sites throughout New York State.

We received welcome assistance from Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Eric Massa, who wrote letters of support for our proposal to Save America's Treasures. We gave a formal report on June to the

Farmington Town Board, who (with Floyd Kofahl, Farmington Code Enforcement Officer) have been consistently helpful.

Research. Through a survey of sites relating to the Underground Railroad and African American life in Wayne County (sponsored by the Wayne County Historian's Office and funded by the Preservation League of New York State), we discovered many homes of abolitionists, women's rights activists, and African Americans associated with the 1816 Farmington Meetinghouse. Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College, yielded extremely important documents relating to Seneca people and Quakers at Farmington.



Steering Committee Members, September 2009
Photo by Stephan Lewandowski

Fund-raising. We have been especially blessed this year with many supportive donors, including New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Canandaigua National Bank, the Preservation League of New York State, and many individuals. We are especially thankful to Farmington Friends Meeting for their gift of 3.5 acres of land as a site for the 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse and also to Wayne Jenks and an anonymous contributor, for their purchase of certificates of deposit in Canandaigua National Bank, to be used as collateral for a line-of-credit.

With your help, we look forward to another energizing and productive year for this remarkable Meetinghouse in 2010—a building whose stories challenge us to act on ideals of equality in our own lives, now and in the future.