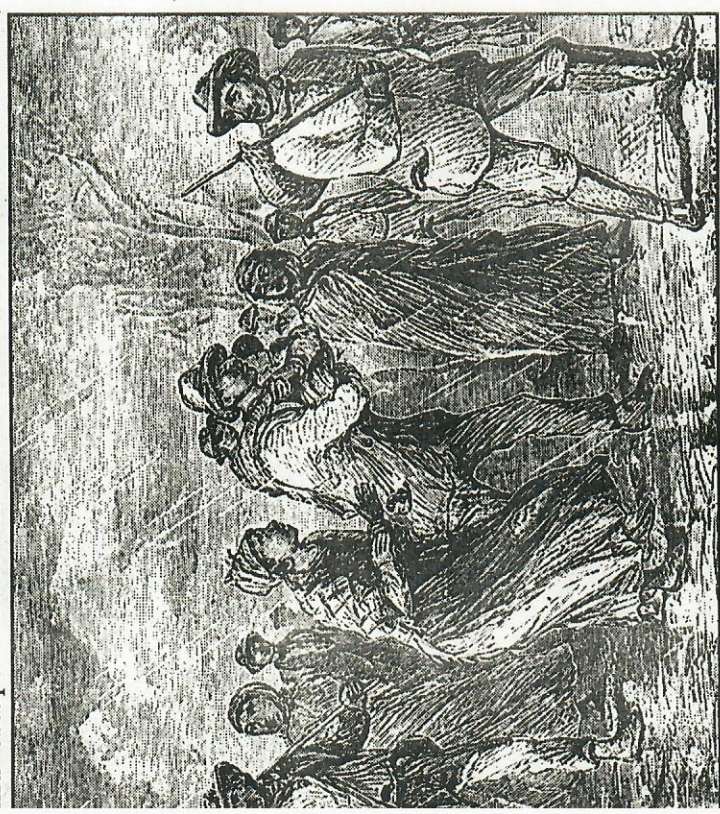


Slaves 'Follow the North Star to Freedom'

The production includes interviews with Mamie Sweeting Diggs, a local oral historian and descendant of Daniel and Annie Hughes, who guided and hid escaped slaves on their



on the road to freedom, from "The Underground Railroad" by William, 1872.

Freedom Road property; Dr. John Piper, dean of Lycoming College and professor of history; Linda Poulton, curator of the Muncy Historical Society and Museum of History, and

vania and area residents appear in brief re-enactments. Some are descendants of Underground Railroad participants.

Frock's husband, Mark Canouse, is associate project director for the documentary. J.D. DiAngelis, program and production manager of Post-Newsweek Cable, Canton, Ohio, directed and narrated the program. Both were involved since the program's inception.

Frock said the project became a reality only through the cooperative efforts of many within the local community.

Private individuals, historical societies and religious organizations not only provided valuable information, artifacts and documents, but moral and financial support.

Today, as in the past, individuals from all walks of life contributed their time, energies and resources toward the success of the project.

The program is supported by a major grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and substantial financial support from CoreStates Bank, Pennsdale Friends Meeting and private individuals.

Funding was difficult. "It took three years to raise the money. We applied to many places, but were turned down," she noted. "But we refused to



MAMIE SWEETING DIGGS and other descendants of Daniel Hughes join Charles Blockson in the 1993 dedication of a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker at Freedom Road, once home of Underground Railroad agents Daniel and Annie Hughes.

give up. We kept doing the research even though we had no money."

The determination to continue despite lack of funds only confirmed the importance of the project, she said.

Frock, a Bucks County

native, is a graduate of Lycoming College and has been a resident of the Williamsport area since 1976.

"It's been a long road, but an exciting one. Now it's time to show the fruits of all the work people put into it," she shared.

CRAIG W. SMITH/Sun-Gazette

Runaway Slaves 'Follow the North Star'

(From Page 9)
 devious routes at night were used. Eventually, the network took on the language of the steam railroad code.

Excerpts from coded spiritu-

The production includes interviews with Mammie Sweeting Diggs, a local oral historian and descendant of Daniel and Annie Hughes, who guided and hid escaped slaves on their

nationally known author and historian, Charles Blockson, curator of an African-American collection at Temple University.

Blockson, who was familiar with the area's involvement,

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ENGRAVING OF RUNAWAY SLAVES on the road to freedom, from "The Underground Railroad" by William Still, Porter and Coates, Philadelphia, 1872.

als, used to help people communicate, highlight the soundtrack of the documentary and are performed by Williamsport's Ebenezer Baptist Choir.

Freedom Road property; Dr. John Piper, dean of Lycoming College and professor of history; Linda Poulton, curator of the Muncy Historical Society and Museum of History, and

encouraged Frock "to keep going no matter what it takes."

Combining live footage, old photographs and maps, the program visits several historic sites in North Central Pennsyl-



MAMMIE SWEETING
 Charles Blockson in Museum Comm and Underground Railroad

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