

HEART OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Tubman sign unveiled at Hyatt

New Tubman interpretive sign unveiled at Hyatt



CAMBRIDGE, MD—Visitors to Dorchester County have a new way to learn about Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad's most famous "conductor," thanks to an interpretive sign unveiled June 2. The sign was installed outside overlooking the Choptank River at the 400-room Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina in Cambridge. The sign describes the role of the Choptank River and other

waterways—how they both helped and hindered—the escapes of slaves seeking freedom.

The goal is to inspire visitors to learn more about the moving, courageous, and sometimes harrowing stories of the Underground Railroad and Tubman, who was born in Dorchester County and led many slaves to freedom from here. "We chose to install this sign at the Hyatt because we recognize the story of Harriet Tubman is something the general public is interested in," said Amanda Fenstermaker, director of Dorchester County Tourism. "We want to encourage guests at the resort to explore the stories, people, and places of Dorchester County and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway."

Ted Kanatas, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort, who was on hand for the unveiling, said, "Our guests have always been fascinated by the extraordinary life of Harriet Tubman and the rich history of Dorchester County. The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway project is an exciting opportunity for our visitors to discover this incredible story."

The 125-mile Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway highlights historically significant sites in Dorchester and Caroline Counties. "This byway aims help people understand slavery on the Eastern Shore and the quest for freedom—and their relevance to our own times," Fenstermaker said.

This sign unveiled June 2 is the first of three highlighting the role of waterways in the Underground Railroad. Signs will also be installed in Caroline County and Talbot County and were funded by Network to Freedom, a program of the National Park Service. "We hope these signs inform and educate people and help them appreciate the role of waterways in the escape to freedom," said Barbara Tagger of the Network to Freedom.

The signs are a joint effort of the Caroline Economic Development Corporation, Dorchester County Tourism, and Talbot County Tourism. For more information about Harriet Tubman and Dorchester County, visit www.TourDorchester.org or pick up the Finding a Way to Freedom map and guide at the Dorchester County Visitor Center, 2 Rose Hill Place in Cambridge.