



# The Center of the Rebellion

## From the Superintendent

Greetings!

July is a particularly exciting time of year as the park partners with Seneca Falls to celebrate CONVENTION DAYS, an observance of the 164th Anniversary of the First Women’s Rights Convention July 19-22 with activities including art workshops, concerts, exhibits, ranger tours, educational programs, and more.

On July 19th and 20th, 1848, an estimated three hundred women and men attended the Convention. At the conclusion of the two days, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments (<http://www.nps.gov/wori/historyculture/declaration-of-sentiments.htm>) drafted by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the M’Clintock family of Waterloo.

This Convention issued the first Declaration of Independence for women, declaring that “all men and women are created equal.” While this may not seem radical now, in 1848 the new “woman’s rights movement” joined other unpopular causes like antislavery and temperance reform. The Convention, which was organized in just a few weeks and took place in the Wesleyan Chapel, is indeed proof that a small group of dedicated people have the power to change the world.

As you approach and enter the Wesleyan Chapel, imagine that you are walking in the footsteps of the organizers and participants of the First Women’s Rights  
Continued on page 2



The Horse Chestnut witness tree in front of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House took a big hit on May 29 when a strong storm cell passed through the Washington Street, Seneca Falls neighborhood. Image top right shows tree before the storm. See page 3 for more.

## Park Employees and Volunteers Participate in Waterloo’s Annual Memorial Day Parade

On Saturday, May 26, park employees and volunteers participated in Waterloo’s Memorial Day Weekend of events, *Celebrate Commemorate*, by marching in the parade. Park staff gave out red, white, and blue toys to the kids and NPS pride stickers to parade viewers.

At the M’Clintock House in Waterloo, Gib Young portrayed President Theodore Roosevelt, who spoke about his adventures in the American West and  
Continued on page 2



From the left: Shawn Grube, Jesse Kreager, Helen Kirker, John Teachout, Erica LaComb, Meghan Barbay.

## From the Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

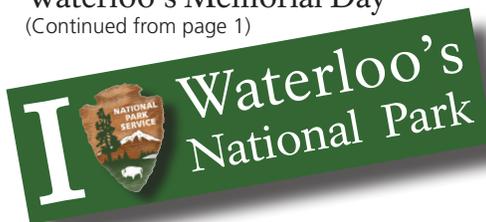
Convention. The Declaration of Sentiments is being read, first to a group of women, and then to a mixed audience. Imagine yourself standing to make suggestions for changes and to sign the Declaration as a brave pledge to pursue a movement for women's rights. Feel the power of conviction which moved the Wesleyan Methodists to build their own church to support the rights of African Americans to live free from slavery and to open their doors to reform speakers who could find no other place to welcome them. Breathe the air of citizenship that moved them to call for freedom for themselves and others. Ask yourself, how do I exercise my rights of citizenship? What role do I play in creating a world of equality and opportunity for all?

These tough questions and brave hopes experienced by the attendees of the First Women's Rights Convention are relevant in any democracy at any time. As the park commemorates the 164th Anniversary of the nation's First Women's Rights Convention, we invite you to participate in the programs offered by the park and the community of Seneca Falls, and to enjoy YOUR National Parks.

Come celebrate with us,  
Tammy Duchesne

## Waterloo's Memorial Day

(Continued from page 1)



his daughter's women's suffrage experiences. This event kicked off the opening of the M'Clintock House, open for tours this summer, Friday through Monday from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Look for special events like this one at all NPS sites throughout the states and territories as we lead up to celebrating our 100th birthday in 2016.

# Mark Your Calendars! The 164th Anniversary Events Are All Set

**Thursday, July 19, 7:00 PM**

ARTS AFIRE! reception and talk by artist Carol Flueckiger in the Guntzel Theater, Visitor Center.

**Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21**

ARTS AFIRE! Workshops

To register or for more information call 315.568.0024 or [anne\\_derousie@nps](mailto:anne_derousie@nps).

**Saturday, July 21, 10:00 AM**

March from the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House to the Wesleyan Chapel,  
*Sponsored by Women In Leadership.*

**Saturday, July 21, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Phrenology readings by Paul and Mary Kuhn. Have your head examined and discover a 19th-century method to reveal your character traits! Lace Making demonstration by Bonnie Breed. Both demonstrations will take place in the Visitor Center lobby.

**Saturday, July 21, 11:00 -11:45 AM**

Melinda Grube will portray Elizabeth Cady Stanton and read the Declaration of Sentiments in the Wesleyan Chapel.

**Saturday, July 21, 1:00 PM**

The Hutchinson Family Revival singers will perform antislavery and women's rights songs in the Wesleyan Chapel.

**Saturday, July 21, 2:00 PM**

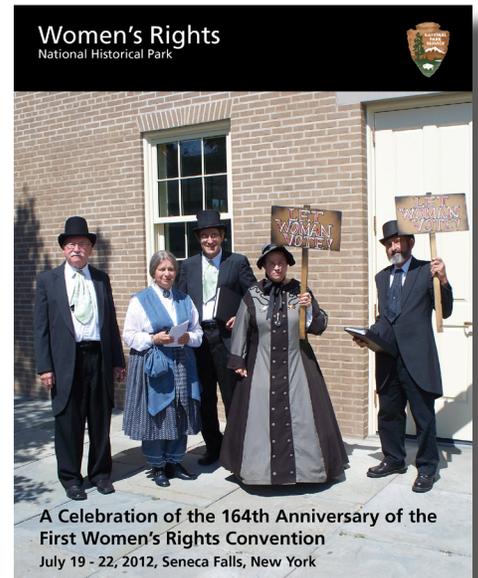
A Dialogue with Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Matilda Joslyn Gage in the Wesleyan Chapel. Melinda Grube will portray Stanton and Pamela L. Poulin will portray Gage.

**Sunday, July 22, 2:00 PM**

Pamela L. Poulin will portray Matilda Joslyn Gage in the Wesleyan Chapel.

**Sunday, July 22, 3:00 PM**

ARTS AFIRE! presentation by artist Carol Flueckiger will be held in the Guntzel Theater, Visitor Center.



The Hutchinson Family Revival will perform musical arrangements from the 1850s at 1:00 PM in the Wesleyan Chapel.



Paul and Mary Kuhn, phrenologists, will be reading heads in the park's Visitor Center from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.



Clockwise from the left: Carol Flueckiger, ARTS AFIRE! featured artist. Melinda Grube will portray Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Pamela L. Poulin will portray Matilda Joslyn Gage.

# Historic Horse Chestnut Tree Damaged in Microburst

The horse chestnut tree that has stood in front of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Home since the Stantons' residency sustained life-threatening damage in a microburst storm on May 29. More than a third of the canopy was lost when major leaders snapped. The tree is such an important remnant of the landscape that welcomed family members, neighbors and reformers to the Stanton home that it is listed as a contributing feature on the National Register of Historic Places documentation.

Within hours of the storm, historic arborists from the NPS's Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (Boston, [http://www.nps.gov/oclp/pres\\_main.htm](http://www.nps.gov/oclp/pres_main.htm)) were viewing pictures to assess damage and safety. Their recommendations for trimming were carried out by Cranebrook Tree Service, Auburn, NY. After an on-site inspection by historic arborist Jamie McGuane, additional trimming was done to encourage recovery and decrease potential for further loss in storms.

Because the horse chestnut suffered damage in previous storms and appears to have reached the end of its lifecycle, the National Park Service will propagate



**Guy Hock, Facility Manager (left) looks on as the Horse Chestnut Tree was trimmed the day after the storm.**

the tree via cuttings and nuts. Multiple young trees will be grown at the Olmsted Center's historic tree nursery.

When the tree demonstrates death and decay, a replacement tree will be planted in its place. The tree will be donated by the NPS to the Rhode Island School of Design Witness Tree Project. (<http://www.witnesstreeproject.org/>) In this program, students learn the history of the fallen tree before shaping it into appropriate and evocative art or furniture.

## “Votes For Women” Trail Update

In 2009, Congress amended Women's Rights NHP's legislation to grant the park the authority to develop a “Votes for Women Trail.” The vehicular route is intended to link governmental, private, non-profit educational sites, museums, libraries and educational programs with a connection to the woman suffrage movement. Development responsibilities include determining criteria for inclusion, identifying appropriate roadways and signage, providing technical assistance to members for educational and interpretive materials, and coordinating route member activities.

Recently the park received funding from the Washington office to launch this public planning process. Planners from the NPS Northeast Regional Office will hold meetings this summer and fall in central New York to seek public comment regarding membership criteria and the selection process. There will also be a website launched to gather input about the trail's development, criteria for membership, and the selection process.

Check out our web and social media sites to learn how you can give your input to the trail's development.

## New VIPs Assist Cultural Resources Division

Two Volunteers-In-Parks are helping with research and collections projects this summer. Alexis Egan, a graduate student at SUNY Oswego, is helping to organize the park library and to place protective covers around books owned by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and other members of the Stanton family. Kevin M. Palotti, an anthropology instructor at Genesee Community College, is researching use of the Hunt House in the 1900s as part of a historic data section of a historic structure report. The historic structure report for the Hunt House is required to be completed before final treatment decisions can be made. Welcome, Kevin and Alexis!



**Alexis Egan**



**Kevin M. Palotti**

# Social Media Update and Volunteer to Live-Blog During Anniversary Events This Year

Since its inception last August the park's social media program has seen constant growth.

In the hands of volunteer extraordinaire Stephanie Freese, Lead Social Media Administrator, the Facebook page has accumulated over 600 followers from all around the world. The social media program aims to build stewardship and awareness, as well as promote events. The program also works to establish relationships with fans, visitors, the community, organizations, and other NPS parks.

Features like "Tuesday Trivia" add a bit of fun while encouraging followers to learn more about the people and events the park honors. There are other fun things in store this summer, so make sure our Facebook page shows on your newsfeed so you don't miss our updates.

Stephanie will be on site live-blogging the parks anniversary events as part of the village-wide Convention Days celebration from July 19-22.



**Volunteer-In-Parks Stephanie Freese. Thanks, Stephanie, we couldn't have done it without you. You've helped us move into the 21st century!**

Make sure to "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for real-time updates as Women's Rights NHP celebrates the 164th Anniversary of the First Women's Rights Convention.

If you tweet and want to join in, please use hashtag #WORI164 to share your experiences at Convention Days and the park's 164th Anniversary events.

Visitors are welcome to e-mail their photos to [worisocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:worisocialmedia@gmail.com) to be shared on our Facebook page.

Facebook -- <http://www.facebook.com/women-srightsnp>  
Twitter -- <http://twitter.com/Women-sRightsNPS>

## New Chief of Interpretation

Noemi "Ami" Ghazala, a ten year veteran of the NPS, has been selected as the park's Chief of Interpretation and Education.

Ami's NPS journey began at Statue of Liberty NM/Ellis Island Immigration Museum. In 2008, Ami transferred to Jean Lafitte NHP and Preserve where she focused efforts on partnering with local schools to bring urban children to their local national park, working closely with low-performing schools and communities-of-color.

In 2010, Ami was promoted to Chief of Education and Resource Management at

Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP where she worked closely with park partners and was instrumental in reaching out to local universities to provide meaningful internships that benefited both students and increased park research and educational programs.

Ami, a native of New York, is enthusiastic to "work at a unique park that offers exceptional opportunities to highlight issues that are relevant today." The park looks forward to the new opportunities to work with schools, universities, and community groups that Ami's tenure will bring.

Welcome Ami!



Ami Ghazala

# New Summer Maintenance Staff Help Fix, Paint, and Clean Up Park Sites

Do you consider yourself a “jack of all trades?” Well, our summer maintenance workers do it all right along with our year-round staff. Summer hires work on so many different things at the park from mowing and seeding our historic landscapes, to maintaining, repairing, and monitoring our four historic buildings. In addition to preserving sites, they also clean the interiors, creating a wonderful environment for staff and visitors.

All the park buildings must be safe, secure, and ready to highlight the history which happened here. Our goal is to help you lose yourself in the history, setting, and landscape.

Thanks to the assistance of three new hires this summer the maintenance division is preparing the M’Clintock House wing for a new paint job, touch-



**Jake Queener (left) and Shawn Grube prepare the M’Clintock House for paint.**

ing up the paint on the perimeter fencing around the visitor center and Wesleyan Chapel, clearing away downed trees, and assisting with preservation projects.



**Shawn Grube (left) and Jake Queener work on the fencing around the visitor center.**

While we welcome three new workers, Maintenance Worker Jake Queener has decided to pursue other passions. We wish Jake well in all he does.

## Welcome Aboard!

The park’s maintenance division is dedicated to maintain, repair, and continuously improve the properties associated with our park. Three new seasonal employees stepped up to the task. The park staff looks forward to working with each of them throughout their appointment.

Jesse Kreager of Waterloo, NY is majoring in Radiology at Finger Lakes Community College and hopes to work as a Radiologist in a cancer center after graduating. Dylan Williams of Ovid, NY is a senior, dual majoring in Social Work at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Dylan hopes to work for Child Protective Services after college. Shawn Grube’s lifelong dream to work for the NPS inspired him to return to college and pursue a degree in Information Technology. Shawn lives in Phelps, NY with his wife and three children.

The interpretive division strives to provide informative, educated, and friendly interactions with thousands of visitors during the busy summer months. To help with the increase in visitors and demand for more programs, three new seasonal Park Guides were added to the roster.

Corey Weaver of Pine Plains, NY is a junior at SUNY Cortland pursuing a degree in History, with a minor in Economics. Corey’s move to Seneca Falls this summer sparked his interest in local cuisine, which he enjoys critiquing with his new friends at the park. Erica LaComb of Syracuse, NY is currently a senior at SUNY Cortland where she is a dual major in History and Adolescent Education. Erica would like to be a Social Studies teacher after graduating. Jeff Teeter will be graduating from



**From the left: Dylan Williams, Shawn Grube, Erica LaComb, Corey Weaver, Jeff Teeter, and Jesse Kreager.**

Finger Lakes Community College this year with degrees in Natural Resource Conservation Law and Criminal Justice. Jeff lives in Macedon, NY with his wife and three children.

The year-round staff would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new summer hires. We hope they all have memorable experiences and enjoy their time with the NPS.

# Ranger News

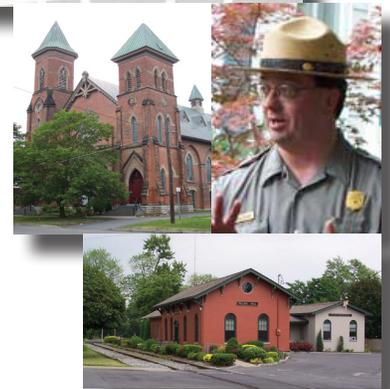
The park rangers have been busy this spring getting ready for the anniversary of the Convention (see page 2), training new staff (see page 5), preparing new programs, and giving presentations at area museums.

On Sunday, June 10th, Park Guide Meghan Barbay presented a program at the Howland Stone Store Museum in Aurora, NY. Barbay's program, "The Woman Question: How Women's Rights Emerged from the Anti-Slavery Movement," was well received. Barbay was asked to participate in the museum's "Sunday Socials." The topics of women's rights and the antislavery movements reinforce the theme of the Howland Stone Store Museum. The museum has been designated a National Historic Landmark for its involvement in antislavery, temperance, and women's rights.

In addition, Meghan is offering a children's program this summer. Visitors will be able to learn about, and try their hand at, various 19th century toys and games. These include: spinning tops, jacob's ladders, the buzz saw, and the whimmy diddle. You can challenge your friends to a game of marbles or jacks. Join us this summer for the special program "Games At All Ages." This program will be offered most Mondays in July at 10:00 AM in Declaration Park, the lawn adjacent to the visitor center.

Park Ranger John Stoudt is offering a guided walking tour of the village to give visitors a chance to "Walk in the Footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton." He'll point out local museums and the site of the *The Lily* printshop on the way to the Presbyterian Church and the restored railroad station. To find out why these sites are important, meet John at the visitor center. The walking tour will be offered at 10:00 AM most Wednesdays in July.

Park Ranger Jamie Wolfe is offering a program on Lucretia Coffin Mott and



Martha Coffin Wright. These sisters had very interesting lives. They both organized the First Women's Rights Convention along with three other women and spent the rest of their lives working for human rights. Learn more about the similarities and differences between these two women by participating in Jamie's program "Sisters, Friends, and Mothers-In-Law," held in the visitor center at 10:00 AM most Thursdays in July.

Verify our daily tour schedule for the Wesleyan Chapel, Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, M'Clintock House, and special programs by calling 315.568.0024.

Top left with rounded corners: images of children playing in the 1800s. Top circles: Martha Coffin Wright (left) and Lucretia Coffin Mott around 1870. Below clockwise: Map of the walking tour route (top), John Stoudt, Railroad Station, and Presbyterian Church.

## ARTS AFIRE! Events in August

In August, the park teams up with the Seneca County Arts Council for "En Plein Air," an exhibit which will run August 3 - September 3, featuring the landscapes and streetscapes of SCAC member artists Tom Hussey and Bev Lombardo. The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House will be featured in a day long workshop on August 11, with a reception for student work to take place on August 18 in the park's visitor center.

Visitors must register in order to participate in the August 11th workshop. Contact Vivien Rose at 315-568-0007 or [vivien\\_rose@nps.gov](mailto:vivien_rose@nps.gov) to register.



The Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, landscape, and surrounding neighborhood will provide inspiration to local artist during the August 11th ARTS AFIRE! workshop. Registration is free, but required to participate.

## Why *The Center of the Rebellion*?

Elizabeth Cady Stanton lived at 32 Washington Street in Seneca Falls for 15 years with her husband and growing family. She wrote many letters to friends and family inviting them to her home, which she called “the center of the rebellion.” With our newsletter, we invite you, also, to Seneca Falls. Find all our newsletter issues at [www.nps.gov/wori/parknews/park-newspaper.htm](http://www.nps.gov/wori/parknews/park-newspaper.htm).



Elizabeth Cady Stanton with her son, Henry, around 1855.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## Park HPHP Committee Participates in Community Garden

Women's Rights NHP's Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) committee is participating in the community garden behind Ferrara Lumber, 300 W. Bayard St., Seneca Falls this summer.

Members of the park's HPHP committee decided what to plant in the garden in order to draw attention to the health practices of the organizers of the nation's First Women's Rights Convention.

Park Guide Meghan Barbay, Facility Services Assistant Bill Reilly, and Chief of Cultural Resources Vivien Rose are tending to the park's plot.

In the 1840s and 1850s people grew their own food, and the families who organized the First Women's Rights Convention were no exception.

The M'Clintocks had a strawberry bed behind their 14 E. Williams St., Waterloo home. The Hunts grew vegetables and fruits on their 145 acre farm with the main house at 401 E. Main St., Waterloo. The Stantons raised raspberries, vegetables, and had a small orchard of quinces, apples, and pears on their property surrounding the 32 Washington St., Seneca Falls home.

Henry B. Stanton, who briefly represented Seneca, Tompkins, and Yates Counties in the N.Y. State Senate, won a bet with neighbor Ansel Bascom, Seneca Falls' first mayor, by growing a bigger watermelon.

Wish our green thumbs luck!



The entrance to the Community Garden is marked by this sign.



Bill Reilly sets out heirloom tomato plants in the park's raised bed garden plot.



Henry B. Stanton in 1840.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Seneca Falls, NY 13148

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*The Center of the Rebellion* is a quarterly publication of Women's Rights National Historical Park.

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## Civil War to Civil Rights Trading Cards Now Available!

All around the country you can collect more than 500 trading cards commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial and the road to Civil Rights at historic themed national parks.

There is one condition: you must visit in person to receive the cards. So come on down! Three trading cards are available in our visitor center every day from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, and two more trading cards are available this summer at the M'Clintock House, Friday through Monday from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Collect all five and learn some cool facts about the First Women's Rights Convention and its connection to the Civil War and Civil Rights.

