

## Chapter 1 : The Underground Railroad – Flight to Freedom – Legends of America

*The Underground Railroad was a network of people, African American as well as white, offering shelter and aid to escaped slaves from the South. It developed as a convergence of several different.*

George Washington complained in that one of his runaway slaves was aided by "a society of Quakers, formed for such purposes. Their influence may have been part of the reason Pennsylvania, where many Quakers lived, was the first state to ban slavery. Two Quakers, Levi Coffin and his wife Catherine, are believed to have aided over 3, slaves to escape over a period of years. For this reason, Levi is sometimes called the president of the Underground Railroad. In keeping with that name for the system, homes and businesses that harbored runaways were known as "stations" or "depots" and were run by "stationmasters. Once the fugitives reached safe havens—or at least relatively safe ones—in the far northern areas of the United States, they would be given assistance finding lodging and work. Many went on to Canada, where they could not legally be retrieved by their owners. A trip on the Underground Railroad was fraught with danger. The slave or slaves had to make a getaway from their owners, usually by night. Conductors On The Railroad Sometimes a "conductor" pretending to be a slave would go to a plantation to guide the fugitives on their way. Among the best known "conductors" is Harriet Tubman, a former slave who returned to slave states 19 times and brought more than slaves to freedom—using her shotgun to threaten death to any who lost heart and wanted to turn back. Operators of the Underground Railroad faced their own dangers. If someone living in the North was convicted of helping fugitives to escape he or she could be fined hundreds or even thousands of dollars, a tremendous amount for the time; however, in areas where abolitionism was strong, the "secret" railroad operated quite openly. Myers became the most important leader of the Underground Railroad in the Albany area. In other eras of American history, the term "vigilance committee" often refers to citizens groups who took the law into their own hands, trying and lynching people accused of crimes, if no local authority existed or if they believed that authority was corrupt or insufficient. Being caught in a slave state while aiding runaways was much more dangerous than in the North; punishments included prison, whipping, or even hanging—assuming that the accused made it to court alive instead of perishing at the hands of an outraged mob. White men caught helping slaves to escape received harsher punishments than white women, but both could expect jail time at the very least. The harshest punishments—dozens of lashes with a whip, burning or hanging—were reserved for any blacks caught in the act of aiding fugitives. A damper was thrown, however, when Southern states began seceding in December, following the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. Even some outspoken abolitionist newspaper cautioned against giving the remaining Southern states reason to secede. She escaped from her owner near Wheeling in the Virginia panhandle now the northern panhandle of West Virginia and made her way to Cleveland in far northern Ohio, where abolitionists helped her secure lodging and employment as a domestic servant. A Grand Jubilee in her honor was held in Cleveland on May 6, Black men and women, whether or not they had ever been slaves, were sometimes kidnapped in those states and hidden in homes, barns or other buildings until they could be taken into the South and sold as slaves. Arnold Gragston struggled against the current of the Ohio River and his own terror the first night he helped a slave escape to freedom. With a frightened young girl as his passenger, he rowed his boat toward a lighted house on the north side of the river. Gragston, a slave himself in Kentucky, understood all too well the risks he was running. But as the division between slave and free states hardened in the first half of the 19th century, abolitionists and their sympathizers developed a more methodical approach to assisting runaways. Above all else, the system depended on the courage and resourcefulness of African Americans who knew better than anyone the pain of slavery and the dangers involved in trying to escape. The elderly woman who lived there approached him with an extraordinary request: His master, a local Know-Nothing politician named Jack Tabb, alternated between benevolence and brutality in the treatment of his slaves. Gragston remembered that Tabb designated one slave to teach others how to read, write and do basic math. He used to beat us, sure; but not nearly so much as others did, some of his own kin people, even. But when the time came, Gragston resolved to proceed. A Presbyterian minister, Rankin published an anti-slavery tract in and later founded the American Anti-Slavery Society.

Rankin and his neighbors in Ripley provided shelter and safety for slaves fleeing bondage. After returning to Kentucky one night from a river crossing with 12 fugitives, he realized he had been discovered. The time had come for Gragston and his wife to make the journey themselves. The youngest of 18 children, Still was born in , moved to Philadelphia in the mid-1800s and went to work for the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society as a mail clerk and janitor. Still was closely involved in the planning, coordinating and communicating required to keep the Underground Railroad active in the mid-Atlantic region. He became one of the most prominent African Americans involved in the long campaign to shelter and protect runaways. In *The Underground Rail Road*, a remarkable book published in 1875, Still recounted the stories of escaped slaves whose experiences were characterized by courage, resourcefulness, pain at forced partings from family members and, above all, a desperate longing for freedom. For Still, aiding runaway slaves and helping to keep families intact was a deeply personal calling. Sydney and her family were returned to Maryland, but she escaped a second time to New Jersey. She changed her name to Charity to avoid detection and rejoined her husband, but their reunion was tarnished by the knowledge that she was forced to leave two boys behind. Her angry former owner promptly sold them to an Alabama slaveholder. William Still would eventually be united with one of his enslaved brothers, Peter, who escaped to freedom in the North—a miraculous event that after the war inspired William to compile his history, hoping it would promote similar reunions. The work of the Underground Railroad became the focal point of pro- and anti-slavery agitation after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850. As the decade progressed, the Fugitive Slave Act gave the work of the Underground Railroad new urgency. Perhaps no one embodied the hunger for freedom more completely than John Henry Hill. After recovering from the shock of being told by his owner that he was to be sold at auction in Richmond, Hill arrived at the site of the public sale, where he mounted a desperate struggle to escape. Employing fists, feet and a knife, he turned away four or five would-be captors and bolted from the auction house. He hid from his baffled pursuers in the kitchen of a nearby merchant until he decided he wanted to go to Petersburg, Va. He stayed in Petersburg as long as he dared, leaving only when informed of a plot to capture him. Four days after departing Richmond on foot, he arrived in Norfolk and boarded ship more than nine months after escaping from the auction. But other matters preoccupied him. Still, I have been looking and looking for my friends for several days, but have not seen nor heard of them. I hope and trust in the Lord Almighty that all things are well with them. My dear sir I could feel so much better satisfied if I could hear from my wife. In another letter, Hill fretted about the fate of his uncle, Hezekiah, who went into hiding after his escape and ultimately fled to freedom after 13 months. Despite enormous difficulties, some families managed to escape to freedom intact. My master was wanting to keep me in the dark about taking them, for fear that something might happen. Upon learning of his planned departure for Mississippi, quick-thinking Jackson gathered her children and headed for Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania, the family continued north into Canada. The 40 or so years Jackson had spent in slavery were at an end. Jackson and her interesting family of seven children arrived safe and in good health and spirits at my house in St. Davidson, however, was a different story. Davidson assumed control of the farm and the slaves, Hammond remembered and refused to complete the transaction Berry had arranged with her late husband. Hammond recalled that her father bribed the Anne Arundel sheriff for permits allowing him to travel to Baltimore with his wife and child. Davidson and one by the Anne Arundel sheriff, perhaps to protect himself from criticism for the role he played in aiding their escape in the first place. Coleman, who delivered merchandise to the towns between Baltimore and Hanover, Pa. Hammond attended school at a Quaker mission. When the war ended, her family returned to Baltimore. Hammond completed the seventh grade and, just like her mother, became a cook. Even as he mourned the loss of his son, Hill reflected on his contentment. Mitchell is the author of *Skirmisher*:

**Chapter 2 : The Underground Railroad “ America in Class “ resources for history & literature teachers**

*The Underground Railroad has , ratings and 17, reviews. Emily May said: This is my first read by Colson Whitehead and it makes me think his styl.*

Visit Website Vigilance Committees“ created to protect escaped slaves from bounty hunters in New York in and Philadelphia in “soon expanded their activities to guide slaves on the run. By the s, the term Underground Railroad was part of the American vernacular. In the deep South, the Fugitive Slave Act of made capturing escaped slaves a lucrative business, and there were fewer hiding places for them. Fugitive slaves were typically on their own until they got to certain points farther north. Hiding places included private homes, churches and schoolhouses. Others headed north through Pennsylvania and into New England or through Detroit on their way to Canada. The first act, passed in , allowed local governments to apprehend and extradite escaped slaves from within the borders of free states back to their point of origin, and to punish anyone helping the fugitives. Some Northern states tried to combat this with Personal Liberty Laws, which were struck down by the Supreme Court in The Fugitive Slave Act of was designed to strengthen the previous law, which was felt by southern states to be inadequately enforced. This update created harsher penalties and set up a system of commissioners that promoted favoritism towards slave owners and led to some freed slaves being recaptured. For an escaped slave, the northern states were still considered a risk. Meanwhile, Canada offered blacks the freedom to live where they wanted, sit on juries, run for public office and more, and efforts at extradition had largely failed. Some Underground Railroad operators based themselves in Canada and worked to help the arriving fugitives settle in. Born a slave named Araminta Ross, she took the name Harriet Tubman was her married name when, in , she escaped a plantation in Maryland with two of her brothers. They returned a couple of weeks later, but Tubman left again on her own shortly after, making her way to Pennsylvania. Tubman later returned to the plantation on several occasions to rescue family members and others. On her third trip, she tried to rescue her husband, but he had remarried and refused to leave. Distraught, Tubman reported a vision of God, after which she joined the Underground Railroad and began guiding other escaped slaves to Maryland. Tubman regularly took groups of escapees to Canada, distrusting the United States to treat them well. Frederick Douglass Former slave and famed writer Frederick Douglass hid fugitives in his home in Rochester, New York, helping escaped slaves make their way to Canada. Former fugitive Reverend Jermain Loguen, who lived in neighboring Syracuse, helped 1, slaves go north. Robert Purvis, an escaped slave turned Philadelphia merchant, formed the Vigilance Committee there in Former slave and railroad operator Josiah Henson created the Dawn Institute in in Ontario to help escaped slaves who made their way to Canada learn needed work skills. John Parker was a free black man in Ohio, a foundry owner who took a rowboat across the Ohio River to help fugitives cross. He was also known to make his way into Kentucky and enter plantations to help slaves escape. William Still was a prominent Philadelphia citizen who had been born to fugitive slave parents in New Jersey. Who Ran the Underground Railroad? Most Underground Railroad operators were ordinary people, farmers and business owners, as well as ministers. Some wealthy people were involved, such as Gerrit Smith, a millionaire who twice ran for president. In , Smith purchased an entire family of slaves from Kentucky and set them free. One of the earliest known people to help fugitive slaves was Levi Coffin, a Quaker from North Carolina. He started around when he was 15 years old. Coffin said that he learned their hiding places and sought them out to help them move along. Eventually, they began to find their way to him. Coffin later moved to Indiana and then Ohio, and continued to help escaped slaves wherever he lived. John Brown Abolitionist John Brown was a conductor on the Underground Railroad, during which time he established the League of Gileadites, devoted to helping fugitive slaves get to Canada. In he partnered with Vermont schoolteacher Delia Webster and was arrested for helping an escaped slave and her child. He was pardoned in , but was arrested again and spent another 12 years in jail. Charles Torrey was sent to prison for six years in Maryland for helping a slave family escape through Virginia. He operated out of Washington, D. Massachusetts sea captain Jonathan Walker was arrested in after he was caught with a boatload of escaped slaves that he was trying to help get north. John Fairfield of Virginia

rejected his slave-holding family to help rescue the left-behind families of slaves who made it north. He broke out of jail twice. He died in in Tennessee during a slave rebellion. In reality, its work moved aboveground as part of the Union effort against the Confederacy. Harriet Tubman once again played a significant part by leading intelligence operations and fulfilling a command role in Union Army operations to rescue the emancipated slaves. The Epic Story of the Underground Railroad. The Road To Freedom. Who Really Ran the Underground Railroad? The Perilous Lure of the Underground Railroad.

Chapter 3 : The Underground Railroad Study Guide from LitCharts | The creators of SparkNotes

*The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses established in the United States during the early to mid 19th century, and used by African-American slaves to escape into free states and Canada with the aid of abolitionists and allies who were sympathetic to their cause.*

Any cause needs speakers and organizers. Any mass movement requires men and women of great ideas. But information and mobilization are not enough. To be successful, revolutionary change requires people of action — those who little by little chip away at the forces who stand in the way. Such were the "conductors" of the Underground Railroad. Not content to wait for laws to change or for slavery to implode itself, railroad activists helped individual fugitive slaves find the light of freedom. Harriet Tubman is sometimes referred to as the Moses of her people because of the way she led them out of slavery. The Underground Railroad operated at night. Slaves were moved from "station" to "station" by abolitionists. These "stations" were usually homes and churches — any safe place to rest and eat before continuing on the journey to freedom, as faraway as Canada. Often whites would pretend to be the masters of the fugitives to avoid capture. Sometimes lighter skinned African Americans took this role. In one spectacular case, Henry "Box" Brown arranged for a friend to put him in a wooden box, where he had only a few biscuits and some water. His friend mailed him to the North, where bemused abolitionists received him in Philadelphia. This map of the eastern United States shows some of the routes that slaves traveled during their escape to freedom. Most of the time, however, slaves crept northward on their own, looking for the signal that designated the next safe haven. This was indeed risky business, because slave catchers and sheriffs were constantly on the lookout. Over 3,000 people are known to have worked on the railroad between 1800 and the end of the Civil War. Many will remain forever anonymous. Perhaps the most outstanding "conductor" of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman. Born a slave herself, she began working on the railroad to free her family members. During the 1830s, Tubman made 19 separate trips into slave territory. She was terribly serious about her mission. Any slave who had second thoughts she threatened to shoot with the pistol she carried on her hip. By the end of the decade, she was responsible for freeing about 300 slaves. When the Civil War broke out, she used her knowledge from working the railroad to serve as a spy for the Union. Needless to say, the Underground Railroad was not appreciated by the slaveowners. Although they disliked Abolitionist talk and literature, this was far worse. To them, this was a simple case of stolen property. When Northern towns rallied around freed slaves and refused compensation, yet another brick was set into the foundation of Southern secession. No wonder their home, which had a secret room and a secret inside well to provide water for their "passengers," was called the "Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad. In it will celebrate the opening of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, dedicated to commemorating and communicating the many stories and themes of the Underground Railroad.

## Chapter 4 : The Underground Railroad

*Underground Railroad summary: The Underground Railroad was the term used to describe a network of meeting places, secret routes, passageways and safe houses used by slaves in the U.S. to escape slave holding states to northern states and Canada.*

He attended Trinity School and Harvard University, graduating in 1963. He then moved back to New York and began working as a reporter for *The Village Voice* while simultaneously working on his first novel, *The Intuitionist*, which was published in 1967. Whitehead has now published six novels, of which *The Underground Railroad* is the most recent. In addition to novels, he has published numerous essays and two nonfiction books. He lives in Brooklyn. While the underground railroad was mostly not a literal train network as it is depicted in the novel, there is evidence of some physical railroad infrastructure being used in order to transport runaways to freedom. The novel also makes use of several other key pieces of American history, although not necessarily in a historically accurate way. This law stated that northern states had to cooperate with the capture and return of runaways to the South, and it was viciously opposed by abolitionists. One of its critics was Harriet Tubman, a formerly enslaved woman who escaped before assisting many others. Tubman is probably the most famous leader of the underground railroad. This part of the narrative is based on several examples of forced sterilization of black people that began during slavery and continue into the present, and the Tuskegee syphilis experiment of 1932, during which hundreds of African-American men were given free food, lodging, and health care, yet were not told that they were being studied and purposefully denied treatment for syphilis. The experiment became the basis for reform of ethical standards in medical research, including laws mandating informed consent.

**Other Books Related to *The Underground Railroad***

*The Underground Railroad* is an example of a neo-slave narrative, a term coined by Ishmael Reed that refers to a work of literature written in the contemporary era that is set during the slavery era and tells the story from the perspective of enslaved characters.

***The Underground Railroad* When Written:** When Elijah Lander delivers his speech and it is interrupted by a white gang who destroy Valentine farm

**Antagonist:** Arnold Ridgeway

**Point of View:** Real pieces of history. The first four runaway slave ads featured in the novel are taken word-for-word from real 19th century newspapers. Cite This Page Seresin, Indiana. Retrieved November 8,

*The Underground Railroad is an American masterpiece, as much a searing document of a cruel history as a uniquely brilliant work of fiction.* --Michael Schaub, NPR.

What was the Underground Railroad? The Underground Railroad was formed in the early 19th century and reached its height between 1830 and 1850. Much of what we know today comes from accounts after the Civil War and accurate statistics about fugitive slaves using the Underground Railway may never be verifiable. It is believed that around 100,000 slaves between 1830 and 1850 escaped using the network. The majority of the slaves came from the upper south states that bordered free states such as Kentucky, Virginia and Maryland; very few escaped from the Deep South. The Underground Railroad was not located underground nor was it a railroad. Here is a comprehensive list of secret codes and phrases. Organization The Underground Railway was a loosely organized network of connections with no clear defined routes. They provided houses, transportation to aid slaves to freedom. This system kept the secrecy of those involved and lowered the risk of infiltrations. Routes were often indirect to confuse slave catchers. There was no one set route, there were likely many of them. Hundreds or perhaps thousands of houses across the north were used as stations. The National Park Service has a list of these sites. Fugitives would move from one station to the next at night crossing rivers, swamps and hiking mountains. Most travelled by foot and hid in barns or out of sight places such as basements and cup boards. Committees were formed in large cities such as Boston, New York and Philadelphia. These committees raised funds to help fugitives settle by temporarily providing shelter and job recommendations. Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 Until living in free states was relatively low risk for fugitives. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act as part of the Compromise of 1850 the Underground Railroad was rerouted to Canada as its final destination. Thousands of slaves settled in newly formed communities in Southern Ontario. Suddenly their job became more difficult and riskier. The Act made it illegal for a person to help a run away, and citizens were obliged under the law to help slave catchers arrest fugitive slaves. Slave catchers were handsomely rewarded, even free African Americans could be sent back south by destroying their free papers. After the war ended, the 13th amendment to the Constitution was approved in which abolished slavery in the entire United States and therefore was the end of the Underground Railroad. Supporters of the Underground Railroad Sympathizers of the network were black and white abolitionists, free blacks, Native Americans and religious associations such as the Religious Society of Friends also known as Quakers and Congregationalists. The first call for the abolition of slavery in America came in from the Quakers in Pennsylvania.

### Chapter 6 : Underground Railroad - HISTORY

*The Underground Railroad, a vast network of people who helped fugitive slaves escape to the North and to Canada, was not run by any single organization or person. Rather, it consisted of many.*

Harriet stepped between the slave and the overseer—the weight struck her head. I had no bed, no place to lie down on at all, and they laid me on the seat of the loom, and I stayed there all day and the next. She also started having vivid dreams and hallucinations which she often claimed were religious visions she was a staunch Christian. Her infirmity made her unattractive to potential slave buyers and renters. Around 1825, Harriet married John Tubman, a free black man, and changed her last name from Ross to Tubman. The marriage was not good, and John threatened to sell Harriet further south. The brothers, however, changed their minds and went back. With the help of the Underground Railroad, Harriet persevered and traveled 90 miles north to Pennsylvania and freedom. Fugitive Slave Act The Fugitive Slave Act allowed fugitive and free slaves in the north to be captured and enslaved. She often drugged babies and young children to prevent slave catchers from hearing their cries. Over the next ten years, Harriet befriended other abolitionists such as Frederick Douglass, Thomas Garrett and Martha Coffin Wright, and established her own Underground Railroad network. She was recruited to assist fugitive slaves at Fort Monroe and worked as a nurse, cook and laundress. Harriet used her knowledge of herbal medicines to help treat sick soldiers and fugitive slaves. In 1852, Harriet became head of an espionage and scout network for the Union Army. She provided crucial intelligence to Union commanders about Confederate Army supply routes and troops and helped liberate slaves to form black Union regiments. Though just over five feet tall, she was a force to be reckoned with, although it took over three decades for the government to recognize her military contributions and award her financially. She married former slave and Civil War veteran Nelson Davis in her husband John had died and they adopted a little girl named Gertie a few years later. Harriet had an open-door policy for anyone in need. She supported her philanthropy efforts by selling her home-grown produce, raising pigs and accepting donations and loans from friends. The head injury she suffered in her youth continued to plague her and she endured brain surgery to help relieve her symptoms. But her health continued to deteriorate and eventually forced her to move into her namesake rest home in Schools and museums bear her name and her story has been revisited in books, movies and documentaries.

### Chapter 7 : Pathways to Freedom | About the Underground Railroad

*The Underground Railroad was the network used by enslaved black Americans to obtain their freedom in the 30 years before the Civil War (). The "railroad" used many routes from states in the South, which supported slavery, to "free" states in the North and Canada.*

Plot[ edit ] The story is told in the third person, focusing mainly on Cora. Cora is a slave on a plantation in Georgia and an outcast after Mabel ran off without her. She harbors a great deal of resentment towards Mabel for escaping, although readers later learn that her mother, in an attempt to return to Cora, actually died from a snake bite and never reached her. Caesar approaches Cora about a plan to flee. Reluctant at first, she eventually agrees as her situation with her master and fellow slaves worsens. Cora is forced to kill a teenage boy to protect herself and Caesar, eliminating any possibility of merciful treatment should she ever be recaptured. With the help of an inexperienced abolitionist, Cora and Caesar find the Underground Railroad, depicted as a literal underground train system that runs throughout the south that transports runaways northwards. They take a train to South Carolina. Meanwhile, Cora and Caesar have taken up comfortable residence in South Carolina under assumed names. South Carolina is enacting a program where the government owns former slaves but employs them, provides medical treatment, and gives them communal housing. The two enjoy their time there and put off the decision to leave until Cora learns of plans to sterilize black women and use black men as test subjects in an experiment to track the spread of syphilis. Ridgeway arrives before the two can leave, and Cora is forced to return to the Railroad alone. She later learns that Caesar was killed by an angry mob after having been caught and jailed by Ridgeway. Cora eventually arrives in a closed-down station in North Carolina. North Carolina has recently decided to abolish slavery, using indentured servants instead, and violently executing any runaway slaves found in the state as well as some freedmen. Martin, terrified of what the North Carolinians might do to an abolitionist, hides Cora in his attic for several months. While Cora is down from the attic, a raid is conducted on the house, and she is recaptured by Ridgeway. Ridgeway takes Cora back toward Georgia, detouring through Tennessee to return another slave to his master. Cora travels to a farm in Indiana owned by a free black man named Valentine, along with one of her rescuers, a man called Royal. The farm is populated by a number of freedmen and escapees, living and working in harmony. Royal, who is an operator on the Railroad, begins a romantic relationship with Cora, although she remains hesitant because of a rape by other slaves in her childhood. Unfortunately for the pair, a small faction of freedmen fears that their peaceful life will be ruined by the presence of escaped slaves, and tips off some slavecatchers to their presence. The farm is burned, and many people, including Royal, are killed in a raid by white Indianans. Ridgeway recaptures Cora and forces her to take him to a closed-down Railroad station nearby. When they arrive, she pushes him down a flight of stairs, severely injuring him. She then runs off down the tracks. Eventually, she emerges from the underground tracks to find a caravan traveling out West.

*The Underground Railroad, published in , is the sixth novel by American author Colson Whitehead. The alternate history novel tells the story of Cora and Caesar.*

This booklet will provide a window into the past through a variety of primary sources regarding the Underground Railroad. These primary sources consist of broadsides, reward posters, newspaper clippings, historical documents, sheet music, photographs and narratives pertaining to the Underground Railroad. These items are found within the digitized collections of the Library of Congress. The Underground Railroad was a secret system developed to aid fugitive slaves on their escape to freedom. Involvement with the Underground Railroad was not only dangerous, but it was also illegal. So, to help protect themselves and their mission secret codes were created. The term Underground Railroad referred to the entire system, which consisted of many routes called lines. The free individuals who helped runaway slaves travel toward freedom were called conductors, and the fugitive slaves were referred to as cargo. The safe houses used as hiding places along the lines of the Underground Railroad were called stations. A lit lantern hung outside would identify these stations. A Dangerous Path to Freedom Traveling along the Underground Railroad was a long a perilous journey for fugitive slaves to reach their freedom. Runaway slaves had to travel great distances, many times on foot, in a short amount of time. They did this with little or no food and no protection from the slave catchers chasing them. Slave owners were not the only pursuers of fugitive slaves. In order to entice others to assist in the capture of these slaves, their owners would post reward posters offering payment for the capture of their property. If they were caught, any number of terrible things could happen to them. Many captured fugitive slaves were flogged, branded, jailed, sold back into slavery, or even killed. Not only did fugitive slaves have the fear of starvation and capture, but there were also threats presented by their surroundings. While traveling for long periods of time in the wilderness, they would have to fend off animals wanting to kill and eat them, cross treacherous terrain, and survive severe temperatures. For the slaves traveling north on the Underground Railroad, they were still in danger once they entered northern states. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 allowed and encouraged the capture of fugitive slaves due to the fact that they were seen as stolen property, rather than abused human beings. The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 also outlawed the abetting of fugitive slaves. Their safety and freedom would not be reached until they entered into Canada. Not all slaves traveled north. There were also Underground Railroad lines that lead south en route for Mexico and the Caribbean. He was taken from his northern residence, arrested, and tried under this law in Boston, Massachusetts. His arrest spurred black and white abolitionists and citizens of Boston to riot and protest. After the trial, Burns was taken back to cruelty of the south which he thought he had escaped from. While he was enduring his return to slavery, abolitionists were working to raise funds and within a year of his trial they had enough money to buy his freedom. He escaped not on the Underground Railroad, but on a real train. He disguised himself as a sailor, but this was not enough. Luckily, the train conductor did not look closely at the papers, and Douglass gained his passage to freedom. Unfortunately, not all runaway slaves made it to freedom. But, many of those who did manage to escape went on to tell their stories of flight from slavery and to help other slaves not yet free. He shipped himself in a three foot long by two and a half foot deep by two foot wide box, from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When he was removed from the box, he came out singing. Conductors helped runaway slaves by providing them with safe passage to and from stations. They did this under the cover of darkness with slave catchers hot on their heels. Many times these stations would be located within their own homes and businesses. The act of harboring fugitive slaves put these conductors in grave danger; yet, they persisted because they believed in a cause greater than themselves, which was the freeing of thousands of enslaved human beings. These conductors were comprised of a diverse group of people. They included people of different races, occupations and income levels. There were also former slaves who had escaped using the Underground Railroad and voluntarily returned to the lands of slavery, as conductors, to help free those still enslaved. If a conductor was caught helping free slaves they would be fined, imprisoned, branded, or even hanged. Jonathan Walker was a sea captain caught off the shore of Florida trying to transport fugitive slaves to

freedom in the Bahamas. She never lost one of them along the way. As a fugitive slave herself, she was helped along the Underground Railroad by another famous conductor—William Still. He went on to write *The Underground Railroad*: John Parker is yet another former slave who escaped and ventured back into slave states to help free others. He conducted one of the busiest sections of the Underground Railroad, transporting fugitive slaves across the Ohio River. His neighbor and fellow conductor, Reverend John Rankin, worked with him on the Underground Railroad. Both of their homes served as Underground Railroad stations. Conductors of the Underground Railroad undoubtedly opposed slavery, and they were not alone. Abolitionists took action against slavery as well. The organization created the Declaration of Anti-Slavery in which they gave reasons for the construction of the society and its goals. The society distributed an annual almanac that included poems, drawings, essays and other abolitionist material. Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who became a famous abolitionist. He published a newspaper called the *North Star* in which he voiced his goals for the abolishment of slavery. Anthony was another well known abolitionist who spoke and wrote for the efforts to abolish slavery. Much of her book was based on the experiences of fugitive slave Josiah Henson. *Efforts of Abolitionists Telling Their Story*: He made many failed attempts to escape slavery; yet, he still had the courage and perseverance to continue in his fight for freedom after every capture and punishment. His perseverance paid off when he made a successful and much anticipated escape to the northern states and then on to Canada with the help of the Underground Railroad. The following is an excerpt from his narrative in which he discussed one of his many escapes and the challenges he had to overcome. I commenced from that hour making preparations for the dangerous experiment of breaching the chains that bound me as a slave. My preparation for this voyage consisted in the accumulation of a little money, perhaps not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents, and a suit which I had never been seen or known to wear before; this last was to avoid detection. On the twenty-fifth of December, , my long anticipated time had arrived when I was to put into operation my former resolution, which was to bolt for Liberty or consent to die a Slave. I acted upon the former, although I confess it to be one of the most self-defying acts of my whole life, to take leave of an affectionate wife, who stood before me on my departure, with dear little Frances in her arms, and with tears of sorrow in her eyes as she bid me a long farewell. It required all the moral courage that I was master of to suppress my feelings while taking leave of my little family. Had Matilda known my intention at the time, it would not have been possible for me to have got away, and I might have this day been a slave. My strong attachments to friends and relatives, with all the love of home and birth-place which is so natural among the human family, twined about my heart and were hard to break away from. And withal, the fear of being killed, or captured and taken to the extreme South, to linger out my days in hopeless bondage on some cotton or sugar plantation, all combined to deter me. But I had counted the cost, and was fully prepared to make the sacrifice. The time for fulfilling my pledge was then at hand. I must forsake friends and neighbors, wife and child, or consent to live and die a slave. This was the commencement of what was called the underground railroad to Canada. I walked with bold courage, trusting in the arm of Omnipotence; guided by the unchangeable *North Star* by night, and inspired by an elevated thought that I was fleeing from a land of slavery and oppression, bidding farewell to handcuffs, whips, thumb-screws and chains. I travelled on until I had arrived at the place where I was directed to call on an Abolitionist, but I made no stop: I prosecuted my journey vigorously for nearly forty-eight hours without food or rest, struggling against external difficulties such as no one can imagine who has never experienced the same: Another former slave who was well known for her efforts to end slavery was Sojourner Truth. She too along with Josiah Henson, J. Green and many others wrote narratives that shared their experiences. Their stories of strength and freedom provide much insight to the time in which they lived. Perhaps, so many fugitive slaves chose to write down their experiences to help others understand their trials and tribulations; or maybe they did this to help individuals learn from the mistakes of the past, in hopes of creating a better future.

Chapter 9 : The Underground Railroad [calendrierdelascience.com]

*The Underground Railroad operated at night. Slaves were moved from "station" to "station" by abolitionists. These "stations" were usually homes and churches – any safe place to rest and eat before continuing on the journey to freedom, as faraway as Canada.*

Comments The Underground Railroad was a network of people who hid fugitives from slavery in their homes during the day and moved them north by night to free states, Canada or England. New England was a natural destination for refugees. The region had banished slavery and nurtured a strong abolitionist movement. It was also easy to get there from the South by rail and coastal vessels. The Underground Railroad by Charles T. Williams Those who moved the refugees were called conductors, the buildings that sheltered them were stations and the people who fed and clothed them until they were ready to move on were stationmasters. Williams House Austin F. Williams was an active abolitionist and conductor for the Underground Railroad. They were subsequently brought to America and arrested. Their case -- which resulted in acquittal on ground that they were acting in self-defense -- was an important victory for abolitionists. Following the trial, Williams built a house on his Farmington property where the freed Africans stayed before returning to Sierra Leone in The Williams property is not open to the public. Portland became a northern hub of the Underground Railroad because of its easy access by rail and sea. They were active in hiding, provisioning and transporting refugees from slavery. He hid a fugitive from slavery in the meeting house , according to the memoirs of a descendant. It is currently under restoration. New Bedford, a port city, was attractive to African-Americans because its industries -- whaling and the maritime trades – were open to them. By , New Bedford had the highest population of African-Americans in the Northeast, and 30 percent said they came from the South. It was estimated that at any one time before the Civil War, to fugitive slaves lived in New Bedford. Nathan and Mary Johnson owned a confectionery store, several businesses and their home, a stop on the Underground Railroad. The two buildings are owned by the New Bedford Historical Society, and tours are available by appointment. Appointments must be made 48 hours in advance. To make an appointment, call The acre farm was owned by James Wood, a prosperous and industrious Quaker. Wood was a beekeeper, surveyor and hay dealer. His journal from , uncovered by Steve Ristelli in a New Hampshire antique shop, uncovered additional details. On June 1, , Wood noted: There is little additional information about the fugitives helped by Wood. Historians say the slight mention suggests that Wood did not consider the event to be particularly unusual, and he probably helped others passing through. The Wood farm is not open to the public. Photo courtesy New York Public Library. Elizabeth Buffum Chace was a Quaker who belonged to old and distinguished Rhode Island families, but she was distrusted and shunned because of her ardent opposition to slavery. The clash over slavery was especially intense in Rhode Island. Newport had been the largest slave market in New England, but the city was home to many Quakers who opposed slavery. She gave birth to 10 children, though the first five died. Her family would shutter the windows at their home in Valley Falls during the day when they were sheltering fugitives. She recalled in her memoirs how the Underground Railroad worked: Slaves in Virginia would secure passage, either secretly or with consent of the captains, in small trading vessels at Norfolk or Portsmouth, and thus be brought into some port in New England, where their fate depended on the circumstances into which they happened to fall. A few, landing at some towns on Cape Cod, would reach New Bedford, and thence be sent by an abolitionist there to Fall River, to be sheltered by Nathaniel B. Borden and his wife, who was my sister Sarah, and sent by them to my home at Valley Falls, in the darkness of night, and in a closed carriage. The National Park Service, though, offers a walking tour of the area that features a historic park, train station, post office and mill buildings. Click here for more information. Rokeby Rokeby in Ferrisburgh, Vt. He made abolition the cause of his life. Not only did he shelter fugitives, he negotiated freedom papers with slavemasters and found jobs for freedmen. Today Rokeby is a historic farm property and museum that includes a s farmstead, eight agricultural outbuildings with permanent exhibits, and hiking trails that cover more than 50 acres Rokeby is located at U. Route 7 in Ferrisburgh. This story was updated in