

What Was The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • PULITZER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • "An American masterpiece" (NPR) that chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. One of The New York Times's 10 Best Books of the 21st Century The basis for the acclaimed original Prime Video series directed by Barry Jenkins. Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him. In Colson Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor: engineers and conductors operate a secret network of actual tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Cora embarks on a harrowing flight from one state to the next, encountering, like Gulliver, strange yet familiar iterations of her own world at each stop. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the terrors of the antebellum era, he weaves in the saga of our nation, from the brutal abduction of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. The Underground Railroad is both the gripping tale of one woman's will to escape the horrors of bondage—and a powerful meditation on the history we all share. Look for Colson Whitehead's new novel, *Crook Manifesto*!

What Was the Underground Railroad?

No one knows where the term Underground Railroad came from--there were no trains or tracks, only "conductors" who helped escaping slaves to freedom. Including real stories about "passengers" on the "Railroad," this book chronicles slaves' close calls with bounty hunters, exhausting struggles on the road, and what they sacrificed for freedom. With 80 black-and-white illustrations throughout and a sixteen-page black-and-white photo insert, the Underground Railroad comes alive!

Frederick Douglass in Context

Frederick Douglass in Context provides an in-depth introduction to the multifaceted life and times of Frederick Douglass, the nineteenth-century's leading black activist and one of the most celebrated American writers. An international team of scholars sheds new light on the environments and communities that shaped Douglass's career. The book challenges the myth of Douglass as a heroic individualist who towered over family, friends, and colleagues, and reveals instead a man who relied on others and drew strength from a variety of personal and professional relations and networks. This volume offers both a comprehensive representation of Douglass and a series of concentrated studies of specific aspects of his work. It will be a key resource for students, scholars, teachers, and general readers interested in Douglass and his tireless fight for freedom, justice, and equality for all.

Places of the Underground Railroad

This up-to-date compilation details the most significant stops along the Underground Railroad. *Places of the Underground Railroad: A Geographical Guide* presents an overview of the various sites that comprised this unique road to freedom, with entries chosen to represent all regions of the United States and Canada. Where most works on the Underground Railroad focus on the people involved, this unique guide explores the intricacies of travel that allowed the "conductors" to carry out the tasks entrusted to them. It presents an accurate picture of just where the Underground Railroad was and how it operated, including routes and

itineraries and connections between the various Railroad locations. Through information about these locations, the book takes readers from the beginnings of organized aid to fugitive slaves during the period following the American Revolution up to the Civil War. It delineates the possible routes fugitive slaves may have taken by identifying the rivers, canals, and railroads that were sometimes used. And it shows that a network, though decentralized and variable over time and place, truly was established among Underground Railroad participants.

Making Freedom

The 1850 Fugitive Slave Law, which mandated action to aid in the recovery of runaway slaves and denied fugitives legal rights if they were apprehended, quickly became a focal point in the debate over the future of slavery and the nature of the union. In *Making Freedom*, R. J. M. Blackett uses the experiences of escaped slaves and those who aided them to explore the inner workings of the Underground Railroad and the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law, while shedding light on the political effects of slave escape in southern states, border states, and the North. Blackett highlights the lives of those who escaped, the impact of the fugitive slave cases, and the extent to which slaves planning to escape were aided by free blacks, fellow slaves, and outsiders who went south to entice them to escape. Using these stories of particular individuals, moments, and communities, Blackett shows how slave flight shaped national politics as the South witnessed slavery beginning to collapse and the North experienced a threat to its freedom.

If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad

Answers questions about the background of the underground railroad, explains what it was like to be a slave, and describes the hardships faced by fugitive slaves.

The Underground Railroad

"First-person narratives of escapes to freedom in the north." Illustrated with unpagged photos and portraits. Includes narratives by Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

Hauntings of the Underground Railroad

Stories of the runaway slaves who left their spirits behind. "An easy read and an odd collection of tales of murders, mayhem, madness, and sadness." —*Folklore Before the Civil War*, a network of secret routes and safe houses crisscrossed the Midwest to help African Americans travel north to escape slavery. Although many slaves were able to escape to the safety of Canada, others met untimely deaths on the treacherous journey—and some of these unfortunates still linger, unable to rest in peace. In *Hauntings of the Underground Railroad: Ghosts of the Midwest*, Jane Simon Ammeson investigates unforgettable and chilling tales of these restless ghosts that still walk the night. This unique collection includes true and gruesome stories, like the story of a lost toddler who wanders the woods near the Story Inn, eternally searching for the mother torn from him by slave hunters, or the tale of the Hannah House, where an overturned oil lamp sparked a fire that trapped slaves hiding in the basement and burned them alive. Brave visitors who visit the house, which is now a bed and breakfast, claim they can still hear voices moaning and crying from the basement. Ammeson also includes incredible true stories of daring escapes and close calls on the Underground Railroad. A fascinating and spine-tingling glimpse into our past, *Hauntings of the Underground Railroad* will keep you up all night.

Passages to Freedom

Few things have defined America as much as slavery. In the wake of emancipation the story of the Underground Railroad has become a seemingly irresistible part of American historical consciousness. This

stirring drama is one Americans have needed to tell and retell and pass on to their children. But just how much of the Underground Railroad is real, how much legend and mythology, how much invention? *Passages to Freedom* sets out to answer this question and place it within the context of slavery, emancipation, and its aftermath. Published on the occasion of the opening of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, *Passages to Freedom* brings home the reality of slavery's destructiveness. This distinguished yet accessible volume offers a galvanizing look at how the brave journey out of slavery both haunts and inspires us today.

Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb

A brilliant and surprising account of the coming of the American Civil War, showing the crucial role of slaves who escaped to Mexico. The Underground Railroad to the North promised salvation to many American slaves before the Civil War. But thousands of people in the south-central United States escaped slavery not by heading north but by crossing the southern border into Mexico, where slavery was abolished in 1837. In *South to Freedom*, historian Alice L. Baumgartner tells the story of why Mexico abolished slavery and how its increasingly radical antislavery policies fueled the sectional crisis in the United States. Southerners hoped that annexing Texas and invading Mexico in the 1840s would stop runaways and secure slavery's future. Instead, the seizure of Alta California and Nuevo México upset the delicate political balance between free and slave states. This is a revelatory and essential new perspective on antebellum America and the causes of the Civil War.

South to Freedom

Though living far north of the Mason-Dixon line, many mid-nineteenth-century citizens of Michigan rose up to protest the moral offense of slavery; they published an abolitionist newspaper and founded an anti-slavery society, as well as a campaign for emancipation. By the 1840s, a prominent abolitionist from Illinois had crossed the state line to Michigan, establishing new stations on the Underground Railroad. This book is the first comprehensive exploration of abolitionism and the network of escape from slavery in the state. First-person accounts are interwoven with an expansive historical overview of national events to offer a fresh examination of Michigan's critical role in the movement to end American slavery.

The Underground Railroad in Michigan

Slavery existed throughout the western Hemisphere, but after its abolition in the British empire it persisted for decades in much of the U.S. Even in states where slavery was illegal, slaves were subject to capture and return to their owners. The only sure escape was to cross the border into Canada. The Underground Railway was an informal network of secret routes and safe houses, an organized escape route run by blacks and whites who opposed slavery and who helped black Americans find freedom in Canada. They arrived at points as far east as Nova Scotia and as far west as British Columbia, but the vast majority landed in southwestern Ontario. In this book L.D. Cross recounts the harrowing experiences of many including Harriet Tubman, a slave who escaped and later helped many others to do so and Alexander Ross a white doctor and ornithologist from London, Ontario who travelled many times to southern plantations to 'study birds' and to surreptitiously hand out information re the secret routes leading to freedom in the north.

The Underground Railroad

A comprehensive introduction to the life and achievements of the heroic former slave details how after managing her own escape, Harriet Tubman returned thirteen times to guide other slaves to freedom along the Underground Railroad, in a portrait that also relates her subsequent contributions as a wartime cook, nurse, spy, and suffragist.

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad

Much like the rest of the nation, South Central Pennsylvania struggled with slavery. The institution lingered locally for more than fifty years, although it was virtually extinct everywhere else within Pennsylvania. Gradually, anti-slavery views prevailed. The Appalachian Mountains and the Susquehanna River provided natural cover for fleeing slaves, causing an influx of travel along the Underground Railroad. Locals like William Wright and James McAllister assisted these runaways while publicly advocating to abolish slavery. Historian Cooper Wingert reveals the struggles between slavery and abolition in South Central Pennsylvania.

Slavery & the Underground Railroad in South Central Pennsylvania

They left in the middle of the night—often carrying little more than the knowledge to follow the North Star. Between 1830 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, an estimated one hundred thousand slaves became passengers on the Underground Railroad, a journey of untold hardship, in search of freedom. In *Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad*, Jeanine Michna-Bales presents a remarkable series of images following a route from the cotton plantations of central Louisiana, through the cypress swamps of Mississippi and the plains of Indiana, north to the Canadian border—a path of nearly fourteen hundred miles. The culmination of a ten-year research quest, *Through Darkness to Light* imagines a journey along the Underground Railroad as it might have appeared to any freedom seeker. Framing the powerful visual narrative is an introduction by Michna-Bales; a foreword by noted politician, pastor, and civil rights activist Andrew J. Young; and essays by Fergus M. Bordewich, Robert F. Darden, and Eric R. Jackson.

Through Darkness to Light

New Hampshire was once a hotbed of abolitionist activity. But the state had its struggles with slavery, with Portsmouth serving as a slave-trade hub for New England. Abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison, Nathaniel Peabody Rogers and Stephen Symonds Foster helped create a statewide antislavery movement. Abolitionists and freed slaves assisted in transporting escapees to freedom via the Underground Railroad. Author Michelle Arnosky Sherburne uncovers the truth about slavery, the Underground Railroad and the abolitionist movement in New Hampshire.

Slavery & the Underground Railroad in New Hampshire

Harriet Tubman's name is known world-wide and her exploits as a self-liberated Underground Railroad heroine are celebrated in children's literature, film, and history books, yet no major biography of Tubman has appeared since 1943. Jean M. Humez's comprehensive *Harriet Tubman* is both an important biographical overview based on extensive new research and a complete collection of the stories Tubman told about her life—a virtual autobiography culled by Humez from rare early publications and manuscript sources. This book will become a landmark resource for scholars, historians, and general readers interested in slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and African American women. Born in slavery in Maryland in or around 1820, Tubman drew upon deep spiritual resources and covert antislavery networks when she escaped to the north in 1849. Vowing to liberate her entire family, she made repeated trips south during the 1850s and successfully guided dozens of fugitives to freedom. During the Civil War she was recruited to act as spy and scout with the Union Army. After the war she settled in Auburn, New York, where she worked to support an extended family and in her later years founded a home for the indigent aged. Celebrated by her primarily white antislavery associates in a variety of private and public documents from the 1850s through the 1870s, she was rediscovered as a race heroine by woman suffragists and the African American women's club movement in the early twentieth century. Her story was used as a key symbolic resource in education, institutional fundraising, and debates about the meaning of "race" throughout the twentieth century. Humez includes an extended discussion of Tubman's work as a public performer of her own life history during the nearly sixty years she lived in the north. Drawing upon historiographical and literary discussion of the

complex hybrid authorship of slave narrative literature, Humez analyzes the interactive dynamic between Tubman and her interviewers. Humez illustrates how Tubman, though unable to write, made major unrecognized contributions to the shaping of her own heroic myth by early biographers like Sarah Bradford. Selections of key documents illustrate how Tubman appeared to her contemporaries, and a comprehensive list of primary sources represents an important resource for scholars.

Harriet Tubman

If you want to discover the captivating history of the Underground Railroad, then keep reading... The Underground Railroad wasn't underground. Nor was it a railroad. It was, however, an awe-inspiring piece of history, and one that speaks of hope even today. Two hundred years ago, slavery had the Southern United States firmly in its evil grip. Around four million African Americans languished in the most appalling of living conditions, their lives controlled by people who saw them as objects. They were starved, whipped, and put to work despite being pregnant, sick, or so young that they could barely walk. They were despised, downtrodden, and degraded in every way. They longed for freedom, yet to reach the free land of Canada, they would have to cross thousands of miles filled with the threat of slave catchers, men who had made it their business to snatch desperate people who were on the very brink of liberty. It was a hopeless time, but it was also a time of heroes. The only hope that these enslaved people had of escaping their brutal fates was the Underground Railroad. This fabled network of people and places delivered tens of thousands of escaped slaves all the way across the northern United States and into Canada. And while many of the people who made these escapes possible have melted away into history as faceless heroes, we know the names and stories of many. Their stories are some of the most inspiring that we will ever hear. In *The Underground Railroad: A Captivating Guide to the Network of Routes, Places, and People in the United States That Helped Free African Americans during the Nineteenth Century*, you will discover topics such as Slavery through the Ages Abolition around the World Abolition in the United States The Father of the Underground Railroad The Moses of Her People More Heroes of the Underground Railroad And much, much more! So if you want to learn more about the history of the Underground Railroad, scroll up and click the \"add to cart\" button!

The Underground Railroad

In 1858, Mary Millburn successfully made her escape from Norfolk, Virginia, to Philadelphia aboard an express steamship. Millburn's maritime route to freedom was far from uncommon. By the mid-nineteenth century an increasing number of enslaved people had fled northward along the Atlantic seaboard. While scholarship on the Underground Railroad has focused almost exclusively on overland escape routes from the antebellum South, this groundbreaking volume expands our understanding of how freedom was achieved by sea and what the journey looked like for many African Americans. With innovative scholarship and thorough research, *Sailing to Freedom* highlights little-known stories and describes the less-understood maritime side of the Underground Railroad, including the impact of African Americans' paid and unpaid waterfront labor. These ten essays reconsider and contextualize how escapes were managed along the East Coast, moving from the Carolinas, Virginia, and Maryland to safe harbor in northern cities such as Philadelphia, New York, New Bedford, and Boston. In addition to the volume editor, contributors include David S. Cecelski, Elysa Engelman, Kathryn Grover, Megan Jeffreys, Cheryl Janifer LaRoche, Mirelle Luecke, Cassandra Newby-Alexander, Michael D. Thompson, and Len Travers.

Sailing to Freedom

A part of the Underground Railroad, read here of enslaved people and their stories of using Virginia's waterways to achieve freedom. Enslaved Virginians sought freedom from the time they were first brought to the Jamestown colony in 1619. Acts of self-emancipation were aided by Virginia's waterways, which became part of the network of the Underground Railroad in the years before the Civil War. Watermen willing to help escaped slaves made eighteenth-century Norfolk a haven for freedom seekers. Famous nineteenth-century escapees like Shadrack Minkins and Henry Box Brown were aided by the Underground Railroad. Enslaved

men like Henry Lewey, known as Bluebeard, aided freedom seekers as conductors, and black and white sympathizers acted as station masters. Historian Cassandra Newby-Alexander narrates the ways that enslaved people used Virginia's waterways to achieve humanity's dream of freedom.

Virginia Waterways and the Underground Railroad

The activities of the Underground Railroad, and the Abolitionist Movement in Illinois are documented by the author in this meticulously researched book.

The Underground Railroad in Illinois

The Underground Railroad was a complex network of secret routes, safe houses, and courageous men and women, both black and white, who helped slaves escape to free states and to Canada. "Conductors," such as Harriet Tubman, risked recapture in the South guiding slaves to freedom. Readers explore the formation of this extremely effective anti-slavery escape network and the people who made it work.

The Underground Railroad: A Record of Facts, Authentic Narratives, Letters, &c., Narrating the Hardships, Hair-Breadth Escapes and Death Struggles of the Slaves in Their Efforts for Freedom as Related by Themselves and Others, or Witnessed by the Author

William Still's "The Underground Railroad" serves as a central testament to the harrowing experience of enslaved Africans seeking freedom via the clandestine network that helped them escape to the North. Through meticulous documentation, Still employs a narrative style rooted in both oral history and personal testimonies, which lends authenticity to the voices of those he describes. The work is contextualized within the broader abolitionist movement, illustrating the intertwining of personal sacrifice and collective action that characterized the era. His use of poignant anecdotes and detailed accounts crafts a vivid portrait of both the peril and hope embodied in the struggle for liberation. Still, born to formerly enslaved parents, emerged as a foremost advocate for abolition and civil rights in the 19th century. His own background informed his profound understanding of the plight of fugitive slaves, and he became a key figure in the Underground Railroad, assisting countless individuals in their quest for freedom. Additionally, his work as an advocate, writer, and historian reflects a commitment to preserving the narratives of an otherwise marginalized experience in American history. This important work is highly recommended for readers interested in American history, civil rights, and the enduring legacy of the Underground Railroad. Still's unique perspective not only documents a pivotal moment in the nation's past but also underscores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of oppression. Engaging with this text will offer readers invaluable insights into the struggles for freedom and justice.

The Underground Railroad

The success of the Underground Railroad depended on the participation of sympathizers in hundreds of areas throughout the country, each operating independently. Each area was distinctive both geographically and societally. This work focuses on the contributions of people in the Adirondack region, including their collaboration with operatives from Albany to New York City. With more than 10 years of research, the author has been able to take what for years in northern New York was considered akin to legend and transform it into history. Abolitionist newspapers--such as Friend of Man, Liberator, Pennsylvania Freeman, Emancipator, National Anti-Slavery Standard, and the little known Albany Patriot--that were published weekly from 1841 to 1848, as well as materials from local archives, were utilized. The book has extensive maps, photographs and appendices; key contributors to the cause are identified, abolition meetings and conventions are described, and maps of the Underground Railroad stations by county are provided.

The Underground Railroad

In this Illustrated Edition of "The Underground Railroad," William Still presents a profoundly detailed account of the clandestine network that facilitated the escape of enslaved African Americans to freedom in the 19th century. Still, known as the "Father of the Underground Railroad," weaves a narrative rich in firsthand testimonies, historical documentation, and poignant illustration, capturing the harrowing journey of individuals seeking liberation. His meticulous literary style combines autobiographical elements with collective histories to offer readers an intimate glimpse into the courage and resilience of both the escapees and the abolitionists who aided them, placing this work firmly within the context of the antebellum abolitionist movement and American history at large. William Still was born in 1821 in New Jersey to parents who were themselves freed slaves, which imbued him with a profound understanding of the struggles facing African Americans. As a prominent abolitionist, he served as a conductor on the Underground Railroad and was deeply involved in initiatives to document the stories of escapees. His unique perspective and commitment to social justice illuminate the critical importance of remembering and confronting the traumas of slavery, thereby enhancing the urgency and relevance of his writings. This edition serves as a vital resource for scholars and general readers alike, illuminating significant themes of freedom, resistance, and human dignity. Still's powerful storytelling, complemented by evocative illustrations, makes this narrative not only an educational tool but also a moving tribute to the unyielding spirit of those who sought liberty. I highly recommend it for anyone interested in the complexities of American history, social justice, and the enduring impact of the fight against oppression.

The Underground Railroad in the Adirondack Region

Learn about the history and bravery of the Underground Railroad.

The Underground Railroad (Illustrated Edition)

Over the past two decades or more, America has witnessed a healthy renewal of interest of the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad is a story of suffering, bravery, secret codes, heroic deeds, treachery and lofty ideas. It is a story about the best and the worst of human kind. Disconnected and daring escapees hoped that the North Star would guide them to stations on the burgeoning Underground Railroad; which by the early 1830's still did not have a name. The word spread from plantation to plantation, city to city, town to town; first in whispers and then out right talk, there was a railroad to freedom. Invisible though it may have been, the Underground Railroad had numerous agents, conductors and stations throughout the secret freedom network. Slave owners of course, looked upon the Underground Railroad as organized theft. Under the constitution of the United States slavery was lawful and slaves were property. Although assisting escapees along the freedom network meant breaking the law. Yet, people like Harriet Tubman, the most famous conductor did so eagerly. The Underground Railroad remained active until the end of the Civil war.

The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a system of people who wanted to help Southern slaves escape to the free North or Canada in secret. Between 40,000 and 100,000 people escaped to freedom thanks to the Underground Railroad. Readers are presented with a wealth of primary sources, including photographs, personal accounts, literature from the time, and pre-Civil War legislation pertaining to slavery. Readers will have a chance to reach their own conclusions based on facts they find in the primary sources. Sidebars provide readers with supplementary information about the difficult route slaves traveled to reach freedom and encourage readers to continue asking questions about primary sources about the Underground Railroad.

The Ballad of the Underground Railroad

Maps of the major escape routes. Identifies houses and sites where slaves found refuge. Chapter on Canada

discusses the final destination.

The Underground Railroad

Nearly a century after the American Revolution, the waters of the Ohio River provided a real and complex barrier for the United States to navigate. While this waterway was a symbol of freedom and equality for thousands of enslaved black Americans who had escaped from the horrible institution of enslavement, the Ohio River was also used to transport thousands of slaves down the river to the Deep South. Due to Cincinnati's location on the banks of the river, the city's economy was tied to the slave society in the South. However, a special cadre of individuals became very active in the quest for freedom undertaken by African American fugitives on their journeys to the North. Thanks to spearheading by this group of Cincinnati trailblazers, the "Queen City" became a primary destination on the Underground Railroad, the first multiethnic, multiracial, multiclass human-rights movement in the history of the United States.

Questions and Answers About the Underground Railroad

The culmination of years of research in dozens of archives and libraries, this fascinating encyclopedia provides an unprecedented look at the network known as the Underground Railroad - that mysterious "system" of individuals and organizations that helped slaves escape the American South to freedom during the years before the Civil War. In operation as early as the 1500s and reaching its peak with the abolitionist movement of the antebellum period, the Underground Railroad saved countless lives and helped alter the course of American history. This is the most complete reference on the Underground Railroad ever published. It includes full coverage of the Railroad in both the United States and Canada, which was the ultimate destination of many of the escaping slaves. "The Underground Railroad: An Encyclopedia of People, Places, and Operations" explores the people, places, writings, laws, and organizations that made this network possible. More than 1,500 entries detail the families and personalities involved in the operation, and sidebars extract primary source materials for longer entries. This encyclopedia features extensive supporting materials, including maps with actual Underground Railroad escape routes, photos, a chronology, genealogies of those involved in the operation, a listing of Underground Railroad operatives by state or Canadian province, a "passenger" list of escaping slaves, and primary and secondary source bibliographies.

Underground Railroad in New Jersey and New York

Eber M. Pettit (1802–1885) was an American philanthropist who famously operated an Underground Railroad station in Versailles, NY. The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses created in the United States during the early to the mid-19th century for use by African American slaves in order to escape into free states or Canada. This volume contains a first-hand account of Pettit's involvement with the Underground Railroad and the heroic actions taken by him and others to help emancipate hundreds of African-American slaves. Highly recommended for those with an interest in African-American history and the Underground Railroad in particular. Read & Co. History are proudly republishing this fascinating document in a brand new edition, complete with an introductory chapter from "The New Student's Reference Work" (1914).

Cincinnati's Underground Railroad

Describes what it was like to be involved in the Underground Railroad, discussing life on the run, the lives of the trackers, conductors, and stationmasters, and the building of new lives in Canada.

The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad, a Comprehensive History is a great history of the Underground Railroad and

includes the original illustrations. The Underground Railroad is one of the most taught topics to young schoolchildren, and every American is familiar with the idea of fugitive slaves escaping to Canada and the North with the help of determined abolitionists and even former escaped slaves like Harriet Tubman. The secrecy involved in the Underground Railroad made it one of the most mysterious aspects of the mid-19th century in America, to the extent that claims spread that 100,000 slaves had escaped via the Underground Railroad. Of course, from a practical standpoint, the Underground Railroad had to remain covert not only for the sake of thousands of slaves, but for a small army of men and women of every race, religion and economic class who put themselves in peril on an ongoing basis throughout the first half of the 19th century, and in the years leading up to the war. Over 150 years later, that same secrecy has helped the Underground Railroad become so romanticized and mythologized that people often visualize it in ways that were far different from reality. Before the American Civil War eliminated slavery, it was a fixture in North America for over 200 years, and by 1850 a trained slave was worth approximately \$2,500, around 10 times the sum of a typical annual salary in that day. As a result, the economic dependence on slavery in the South was an extreme one, and in the wake of the Fugitive Slave Act, black people in the North were under constant pressure to defend their \"credentials\" to bounty hunters and owners. Between the value of slaves in America, rising abolitionist sentiment at home and overseas, and political debates promoting or hindering the movement toward equality, the era in which the Underground Railroad operated cannot be easily fit into a concise body of principles, actions or geography.

Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad

Includes detailed maps of the known routes and railroad sites. Organized in antebellum America to help slaves escape to freedom, the Underground Railroad was cloaked in secrecy and operated at great peril to everyone involved. The system was extremely active in Pennsylvania, with routes in all parts of the state. This book retraces those routes, discusses the large city networks, identifies the houses and sites where escapees found refuge, and records the names of the people who risked their lives to support the operation.

Life on the Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad offered hope and freedom to those African-American slaves brave enough to journey on it. Here is an explanation of the events surrounding the creation of the secret system and how it worked, including individual stories of people involved.

The Underground Railroad, a Comprehensive History

Underground Railroad in Pennsylvania

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