

## Appendix A: Freedom Seekers

### Addison White

#### THE TOWN BOUGHT HIS FREEDOM

Having run away from enslavement in Fleming County, Ky., in 1856, White was pursued and ended up getting a large segment of an Ohio town involved in protecting his freedom. This is how it happened.

White made his way on his own to James Hunt's farm near Catawba, Ohio. Hunt guided him to the home in Mechanicsburg of a man named Udney Hyde. Apparently, Hyde helped other runaways to travel North, but this time Hyde was injured and couldn't make the trip.

White stayed on in Hyde's home for eight months. During that time, the owner Daniel White heard that his slave was in Ohio. Along with federal marshals, he approached the houses. The marshals tried to swear in a group of local residents to help them retrieve Addison White, but the citizens refused.

The marshals tried to get the runaway to come down from his place in the attic loft, but Addison refused. He finally shot the gun from the hand of a marshal who climbed the ladder. The marshals left and a larger group of citizens gathered, armed with pitchforks and other farm tools, insisting the marshals leave town.

They did, but they returned six days later with more men and warrants to arrest Hyde and three others. Those men took off to the swamps east of Mechanicsburg. Frustrated, the marshals took into custody Russell Hyde, Udney's son. The townspeople chased the group through three counties. Finally, the marshals were arrested and returned to Springfield, Ohio to be jailed.

A federal judge in Cincinnati ordered that several of the townspeople be tried for interfering with federal business. After that trial dragged on, the townspeople of Mechanicsburg decided to settle it all by buying Addison White's freedom for \$900.

**Biddy Mason (1818-1891)**

**FREEDOM AND FORTUNE IN THE WEST**

*“IF YOU HOLD YOUR HAND CLOSED, NOTHING GOOD CAN COME IN. THE OPEN HAND IS BLESSED, FOR IT GIVES IN ABUNDANCE, EVEN AS IT RECEIVES.”*

Biddy Mason won her freedom by being clever and courageous. As the slave of Mississippi plantation owners Robert and Rebecca Smith, she took advantage of the owners’ conversion to the Mormon religion. The Smiths decided to move to the Utah Territory with their slaves, a 2,000-mile journey from Mississippi.

Biddy learned that Utah had been admitted to the Union as a free state in 1850, and that slavery was outlawed there. She took her case to court and along with her daughters won her freedom in 1856.

The Masons moved to California where Biddy worked as a nurse and midwife, saving her money and eventually becoming among the first black women to own land in Los Angeles. She continued to work hard and make smart decisions until she had acquired almost \$300,000.

Biddy donated to charities and helped poor people. In 1872, she and her son-in-law formed the first black church in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles branch of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Anthony Burns (1834 – 1862),**  
**FUROR (ANGER) OVER THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW**

*“UNTIL MY TENTH YEAR I DID NOT CARE WHAT BECAME OF ME; BUT SOON AFTER I BEGAN TO LEARN THAT THERE IS A CHRIST WHO CAME TO MAKE US FREE; I BEGAN TO HEAR ABOUT A NORTH, AND TO FEEL THE NECESSITY FOR FREEDOM OF SOUL AND BODY. I HEARD OF A NORTH WHERE MEN OF MY COLOR COULD LIVE WITHOUT ANY MAN DARING TO SAY TO THEM, “YOU ARE MY PROPERTY;” AND I DETERMINED BY THE BLESSING OF GOD, ONE DAY TO FIND MY WAY THERE.”*

Enslaved by Charles Suttle of Alexandria, Virginia, Burns was given many privileges. He was allowed to hire himself out and take on additional work. However, as he learned to read and as he became a preacher, he knew he wanted to be free. Burns took a ship from Richmond to Boston in March 1854.

Unfortunately, after he arrived in Boston he wrote his brother in Alexandria. Somehow, the owner Charles Suttle found the letter and vowed to recover his “property.” Suttle came north and had Burns arrested under the Fugitive Slave Law.

Word spread to abolitionists and a group of black abolitionists marched on the courthouse, attempting unsuccessfully to free Burns. President Franklin Pierce sent in Marines and artillery weapons to enforce the law. The court trial convicted Burns and nearly 50,000 people lined the streets of Boston to watch as he was escorted to the ship waiting to take him back south.

The event infuriated abolitionists and many northerners who hadn’t taken a position on slavery. An organization was started to kidnap slave hunters. Rev. Leonard Grimes collected \$1,300 to buy Burn’s freedom.

After being freed, Burns attended Oberlin College before moving to Indianapolis to serve as a church pastor, and then on to Canada. He died in 1862, at the age of 28.

## Eliza

The story of the real-life Eliza is even more dramatic than that in Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." In 1838, a young, enslaved mother heard that her 2-year-old daughter was going to be sold to a slave trader. She left the Dover, Kentucky farm and made her way to the semi-frozen Ohio River. Eliza was desperate to reach the white man who lived atop a hill in Ripley – Rev. John Rankin – for she'd heard that he helped runaways.

With dogs barking in the distance, Eliza braved the river, flinging her blanket-swaddled baby onto one ice float after another as she fell repeatedly into the freezing water and dragged herself back up to the ice. In this way, Eliza and her baby made their way across the river.

On the Ohio shore, slave catcher Chancey Shaw was waiting for her and the reward money offered for runaways. But Shaw had a change of heart, declaring that any woman who could cross the river with a baby as Eliza had deserved her freedom. He directed her to the Rankin's home up on the hill.

Eliza struggled up the hill and found in the Rankin home warmth, dry clothes, food, and hope for herself and her baby. Two Rankin sons then took her to the home of Rev. James Gilliland in Red Oak. From there they were taken to Decatur, Sardinia, and then, to confuse pursuers, west to the home of Levi Coffin in Newport, Indiana. Eliza and her daughter finally made it to Canada.

Eliza vowed she would return one day to bring her other daughter and grandchildren out of slavery. That's just what she did, three years later. Eliza hired a French-Canadian man to cross the river to bring her daughter and grandchildren over to the free shores of Ohio. After a last-minute change of plans, the rescuer rowed Eliza's family to Ripley, where they were hidden with the McCague family and taken via the Rankins through Hillsboro, Cleveland, and on to Canada

**Harriet Jacobs (1813 – 1897)**

**SEVEN LONG YEARS IN HIDING**

“I want to add my testimony to that of Abler Pens to convince the people of the free states what slavery really is. Only by experience can anyone realize how deep, and dark, and foul is that pit of abominations.”

Born a slave in Edenton, North Carolina in 1813, Harriet learned to read from the owner’s wife. However, the owner himself abused her, and she ran away from him. Harriet spent nearly seven years living in a small crawl space above a porch in her grandmother’s home. This space was only 9-feet long and seven feet wide, with a sloping ceiling only 3-feet high at one end. It was so confining that she couldn’t easily turn over while lying down.

She later wrote that rats and mice crawled over her, and that she had no light or ventilation. A peephole let her see her children playing outside. For seven long years she lived in the crawl space, emerging only at night for brief periods of exercise.

Finally, Jacobs broke free in 1842, sailing to Philadelphia and taking a train to New York City. In New York, she was reunited with her daughter. For a while she lived in Rochester, N.Y., where she worked with abolitionists. But her former owner pursued her, and she finally became legally free when friends bought her freedom.

In 1860, she published “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.” During and after the Civil War she helped raise money for blacks and recently freed slaves.

## **Joseph Settles**

### **ESCAPED AND HELPED OTHERS**

Enslaved in Mays Lick, Kentucky by the Wilson Family, Settles made a daring break one night in 1863. Along with his wife, their baby daughter Alice, and his wife's brother – the overseer on the farm – Settles stole away toward the Ohio River. Fleeing from patrollers who had noticed them and gave chase, the runaways drifted in a skiff across the river. Trying to make as little noise as possible, they didn't use the oars. They hauled up in Ripley and Settles led them to the home of a sympathetic white man, John Greiner. They stayed there for two years.

As Settles came to know more friends of freedom in Ripley, he arranged for other slaves in Kentucky to find shelter with them. Just four nights after making his escape with his family, Settles returned to the Wilson place in Mays Lick and guided eight more runaways to freedom in Ohio.

**Josiah Henson (1789 – 1883)**

**FOUNDED DAWN SETTLEMENT**

“When I got on the Canada side, ...my first impulse was to throw myself on the ground and giving way to the riotous exultation of my feelings, to execute sundry antics which excited the astonishment of those who were looking on.”

Henson learned early on about the brutality of enslavement. His father tried to defend his wife, Josiah’s mother, from an overseer. For doing so, he was given 100 lashes of the whip, an ear was cut off, and he was sold further south. Josiah never saw or heard from his father again.

Later, he and his brothers and sisters were sold off one by one from his mother. While the bidding for Josiah was proceeding, his mother threw herself at the slaveholder, clinging to his knees and begging for him to spare just one of her babies. In response, the owner, Isaac Riley, kicked and hit her.

When many years later in 1830 Josiah learned that he was to be sold, he collected his wife and children and hastened north to Canada. There he helped create the Dawn Settlement, near Chatham, Ontario, where blacks could work their own land and send their children to school.

He is thought to have been the model for Harriet Beecher Stowe’s character, Uncle Tom. Stowe wrote the introduction to Henson’s “Father Henson’s Story of His Own Life,” published in 1858.

## **William and Ellen Craft**

William Craft (1824 – 1900) and Ellen Craft (1826 – 1891) devised one of the most dramatic escapes from slavery. In 1849, William and Ellen Craft arrived in Boston after traveling more than 1000 miles from Macon, Georgia to freedom. Owned by different people, they were allowed to marry in 1846 and immediately began planning their escape. Eventually, the light-skinned Ellen dressed as a weak white gentleman traveling to Philadelphia for medical treatment. Brown-skinned William played the personal manservant. They traveled by train and by steamboat and arrived in Philadelphia on Christmas Day, 1848. In Boston, they boarded with Lewis Hayden, a noted “conductor” on the Underground Railroad.

Their owners sent slave catchers to Boston, but the Boston Vigilance Committee protected them and arranged for their escape through Maine to Nova Scotia, Canada and onto Liverpool, England. After five children and seventeen years in England, they returned to the U.S. to raise funds for a cooperative farm and school for ex-slaves. The Ku Klux Klan burned their first farm and eventually white opposition forced their school to close. Although living in poverty, they spent the rest of their lives teaching individual students.

*“I had much rather starve in England, a free woman, than to be a slave for the best man that ever breathed upon the American continent.”* Ellen Craft



## Appendix C: Conductors

### **Elijah Anderson (? – 1861)**

#### GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN NORTHERN OHIO

This free black worked as a blacksmith in Madison, Indiana. He often ventured into Kentucky to guide runaways to safety on the Indiana shore and his exploits became famous among the free black population of Madison. However, his success forced him to leave and move to Ohio where he earned the title “general superintendent” of the Underground Railroad in Northern Ohio. Abolitionist Rush Sloane of Sandusky, Ohio declared that Anderson had led more than 1000 runaways to freedom by 1855. In Cleveland, a black man lured by reward money from Kentucky slave owners betrayed Anderson. Found guilty of enticing slaves to runaway, Anderson was sentenced to eight years in the Kentucky state penitentiary where he died allegedly of a heart attack.

## **Joseph C. Brand**

### ALTERED TOWNSPEOPLE

Joseph Brand was born to slave holding family in Kentucky. A move to Ohio helped change his mind about slavery and he became actively involved in sheltering runaways. Brand alerted the Mechanicsburg, Ohio community that the Federal Marshalls were on their way to captured fugitive slave Addison White. After an armed confrontation and lengthy court proceedings, the townspeople of Mechanicsburg collected money to buy White's freedom.

**Seth Conklin (1802 – 1851)**

**MARTYR FOR FREEDOM**

“Although he was buried as he was found, in chains, and was branded with the name of “negro thief,” and his captors exulted in their blood-stained rewards, yet in the sight of truth and heaven, he is joined to the noble and heroic company of the martyrs, the martyrs of freedom and humanity.” Peter Still

As young man Conklin became committed to fair treatment of blacks. Even though he was poor, he donated money to abolition organizations. He refused to keep quiet when blacks were being taken advantage of and several times whites beat him for doing so. Conklin also began aiding the escape of slaves. In his last such attempt, using the name “J. Miller”, Conklin traveled to Alabama and escorted a family of four up into Indiana before they were seized. The party was taken back south but Conklin was shackled and eventually thrown overboard drowning in Tennessee River. The family he was trying to help was of Peter Still, brother of William Still of Philadelphia Vigilance Committee.

## **Rev. Calvin Fairbank & Delia Webster**

### **KENTUCKY ACTIVISTS**

“I piloted them through the forests mostly by night... girls dressed as ladies; men and boys as gentleman or servants; men in women’s clothes and women in men’s clothes... on foot or on horseback, in buggies, carriages, common bags... swimming or wading chin deep, or in boats or skiffs; on rafts, and often on a pine log. And I never suffered one to be recaptured.” Calvin Fairbank.

His luck ran out in 1844 when he and fellow white abolitionist Delia Webster openly transported Lewis Hayden and his family from enslavement in Kentucky. Webster and Fairbank were arrested, tried, and convicted of helping slaves run away. Webster was released after several months before being pardoned. Fairbank fared much worse: he served five years of a 15-year sentence in the Kentucky state penitentiary.

But neither Fairbank nor Webster finished with their rescue work. In 1851, Fairbank was again arrested and convicted of helping runaway woman escape in Indiana. This time he served 15 years of hard labor in a penitentiary. He later claimed that during one 8-year period behind bars he suffered 35,000 lashes of whippings.

Webster, meanwhile, in 1852 bought land in Kentucky where she started a farm colony worked by freed slaves. The neighbors were sure she was using that as a front to rescue runaways and they finally chased her from Kentucky in 1854.

## **John Fairfield**

### A GUIDE TO FREEDOM

The son of a Virginia slave-holding family, Fairfield was involved in many dangerous plays to help runaways. Levi Coffin wrote of time Fairfield helped 28 Kentucky slaves cross the Ohio River near Lawrenceburg, Indiana. They had paid him a small amount of money for his help.

He pretended to be in the area to buy supplies but all the while he was devising a plan for the secret escape. He guided them to the river, near a wood yard where several boats were waiting. They boarded three boats and made their way slowly across the river. There were too many people however, that the boats started taking on water. Fairfield jumped from his boat while it was near the Ohio shore and tried to drag it. The blacks had to pull him out. All of the runaways had to wade through the water to reach the shore. They landed very wet and some without their shoes. Moving quickly toward Cincinnati, they were fighting against the oncoming daylight.

A wealthy member of Zion Baptist Church, Hatfield, quickly sent a messenger to Levi Coffin a well-known abolitionist and conductor in Cincinnati. Coffin hurried to Hatfield's home where along with several other free blacks they devised an idea for getting the slaves beyond the city.

Coffin suggested hiring two coaches from certain livery stable and then loading the runaways into coaches as if part of a funeral procession on its way to a "colored" cemetery. In fact, they were to go beyond the cemetery continuing to College Hill where free blacks could hide them.

Meanwhile, John Hatfield's wife and daughter made food for the runaways to take on the "funeral." They loaded another buggy and sent it on with hot coffee, blankets, bread, and other food.

Rev. Jonathan Cable of college hill helped collect clothes for the runaways. Cable and Coffin determined the best route for the runaways- through Hamilton, West Elkton, Eaton, Paris and Newport Indiana. Coffin wrote a friend in the West Elkton that he was forwarding some "valuable stock" and asking him to send three wagons to college hill.

Stopping at friendly stations where they found shelter, food, and fresh horses, the runaway's eventually reach Canada and freedom.

## **John Hatfield**

### **GUIDED, RESCUED RUNAWAYS**

“I came into this country (Canada) on account of the oppressive laws of the united states. I have good friends in the United States colored and white. As ever a man had, - I never expected to get so good friends again- but the laws were against me.”

This mulatto (half black, half white) worked as a barber on riverboat between New Orleans and Cincinnati he was involved in many escapes of runaway slaves. After he moved to Canada with his family, he recounted a time when he disguised a runaway woman in men’s clothing.

When five or six men were approaching Hatfield and the runaway, he whispered to her “walk heavily” she must have given good impression of a man, for although the others searched her face, they didn’t suspect her. Hatfield then addressed her saying “come this way, Jim.” The two walked in, uncaught.

This was only one of many incidents for Hatfield who recalled sheltering 15 runaways in his house at one time.

## **Captain Robert Lee**

### **PAYING THE PRICE**

Captain Lee paid a high price helping runaways escape. In 1857, he smuggled Stebney Swan, John Stinger Robert, Emerson ,Anthony Pugh, and a woman named Isabella on a skiff from Portsmouth Virginia, to Philadelphia. Although the runaways apparently made it to freedom, Captain Lee was arrested convicted and sent to Richmond Penitentiary for 25 years for his part in the escape.

The case against his was built on the testimony of the wife of one of the runaways. Four men beat her until she linked Lee with the escape. (Normally the testimony of blacks was not allowed as evidence in trials.)

Tragically. the wife of Captain Lee died leaving their two young children to be raised by Mr. William Ingram of Philadelphia. Captain Lee died in prison shortly before the Union army captured Richmond.

**Cassius Clay (1810-1903)**  
CONTROVERSIAL KENTUCKIAN

A speech by William Lloyd Garrison made an indelible impression on Clay during his years as a student at Yale. Rather than abolish slavery immediately, he wanted to do away with it gradually.

His verbal attacks on slavery produced physical attacks against him. He was stabbed at one such speech in Foxtown, Kentucky in 1849. He started publishing a newspaper, *The True American*, with editorials against slavery. The offices were attacked by a mob led by Cassius's relative James B. Clay. Cassius didn't let that stop him, however. He moved the paper to Cincinnati.

After serving in the Mexican-American War he returned to Kentucky where he met John Gregg Fee, an abolitionist from Kentucky. Clay offered Fee land on which to start a school for the children of non-slaveholding families. That school eventually grew into Berea College.



## **Mary Elizabeth Bowser**

### **SPY FOR THE UNION**

Bowser was a house servant for Elizabeth Van Lew, a prominent Richmond, Virginia citizen who had grown up in Philadelphia. During the Civil War, Van Lew and her mother took food, clothes, and books to Union prisoners in Richmond. They may have also helped prisoners escape.

After Mary Elizabeth Bowser was freed by the Van Lew family, she lived in the North and went to school. During the Civil War, Elizabeth Van Lew asked her to return to Richmond to help the Union's cause. Together, these two women found a way to uncover confidential information that would aid the Union Army.

Van Lew helped place Bowser as a servant in the home of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. In her normal duties, Bowser made a point to overhear details from conversations and read letters sent to Davis. It is said that she then sneaked away to the Van Lew house at night, reciting from memory what she'd learned. Van Lew forwarded the information to an agent who took it to General Ulysses S. Grant and other Union officers.

Some say that Bowser pretended to be slow-witted so that no one ever suspected her of relaying top-secret information.

**John Mercer Langston (1829 – 1897)**

**THE NATION'S FIRST BLACK ELECTED OFFICIAL**

“A nation may lose its liberties and be a century in finding it out. Where is the American Liberty? In its far-reaching and broad sweep, slavery has stricken down the freedom of us all.”

Enrolled at Oberlin College at age 14, John completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees there. He was recognized as a lawyer in Ohio in 1854.

This well-educated man wanted to jump into the fight against slavery. His mother had been a slave and his father a white plantation owner. Langston organized anti-slavery organizations and he also sheltered runaways and helped them escape. He became the nation's first elected black official when he was voted town clerk in 1855. He recruited blacks to fight in the Union Army. After the War, he worked for the Freedmen's Bureau, an agency that helped freed slaves.

Another “first” came in 1868 when Langston helped establish the nation's first black law school at Howard University. He served as dean and then as acting president. He later was appointed U.S. Minister to Haiti and president of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (now Virginia State University).

**John Parker (1827 – 1900)**  
FEARLESS CONDUCTOR

“I never thought of going uptown without a pistol in my pocket, a knife in my belt, and a blackjack handy. Day or night I dare not walk on the sidewalks for fear someone might leap out of a narrow alley at me.”

Born enslaved in Virginia, Parker was sold away from his mother at age 8 and forced to walk in a line of chained slaves from Virginia to Alabama. After several unsuccessful escape attempts, he finally bought his freedom with the money he earned doing extra work as a skilled craftsman.

Parker moved to Cincinnati and then to Ripley, where he became one of the most daring slave rescuers of the period. Not content to wait for runaways to make their way to the Ohio side of the river, Parker actually “invaded” Kentucky farms at night and brought over to Ripley hundreds of slaves. He kept records of those he had guided towards freedom, but he destroyed the notes in 1850 after realizing how the Fugitive Slave Law threatened his home, his business, and his family’s future.

Parker obtained several patents on equipment, and he operated a very successful iron foundry next to his home in Ripley, Ohio, a National Historic Landmark.

You can learn more about John Parker in “Brothers of the Borderland” on this floor of the exhibits.

## **Lewis and Harriet Hayden (1815-1889)**

### **RESCUED THEY RESCUED OTHERS**

Undaunted, Lewis Hayden used any means necessary to protect the fugitive slaves.

In 1844 white conductors Calvin Fairbank and Delia Webster helped the Hayden's escape bondage in Kentucky. Settling in Boston the couple worked for abolition and used their home to shelter many runaways.

The Hayden's held anti-slavery meetings in their clothing store on Cambridge Street in Boston. Fellow abolitionist Francis Jackson bought a home for their use in sheltering runaways. In this home, the Hayden's claimed to store kegs of gun powder. The legend says they met bounty hunters at the front door with a lit candle threatening to blow up the house rather than surrender a single runaway.

Among the runaways who haven there were Ellen and William Craft, who escaped disguised as a man and his slave.

The Hayden's only son died in the Union Navy. Lewis went on to serve in the Massachusetts state legislature. Harriet established a scholarship program at Harvard medical school for black students.

## **George DeBaptiste (1815 – 1875)**

### WEALTHY & COURAGEOUS CONDUCTOR

“He always showed himself a bold, uncompromising advocate of right and justice, a firm friend of the poor and oppressed, and in every station an honorable, high minded gentleman.” Detroit Advertiser & Tribune, February 23, 1875.

Born to free parents in Fredericksburg, Virginia, DeBaptiste worked in a variety of jobs – boatman, baker, ship owner, barber, and even steward to U.S President William Henry Harrison.

Moving to Madison Indiana in 1838, he used his barbershop as a local center for Underground Railroad activities. It is said that both white slave owners and anti-slavery men frequented his shop, and that when talk turned to DeBaptiste’s possible involvement in helping runaways he would laugh and say he wasn’t smart enough to do that. In reality, he was engaged in continual rescues, even using his own wagon to transport some 143 runaways further along toward freedom.

His Underground Railroad success meant he needed to move on, which he did by signing on as the personal valet to President William Henry Harrison elected in 1842. After Harrison died only one month into his term, DeBaptiste left Washington D.D. for Detroit. There he worked as a salesman and later as crewman on the great lakes. He did more than move cargo, however. He transported runaway slaves to freedom in Canada. By 1860, DeBaptiste had bought his own ship for the same purpose - the “T. Whitney”.

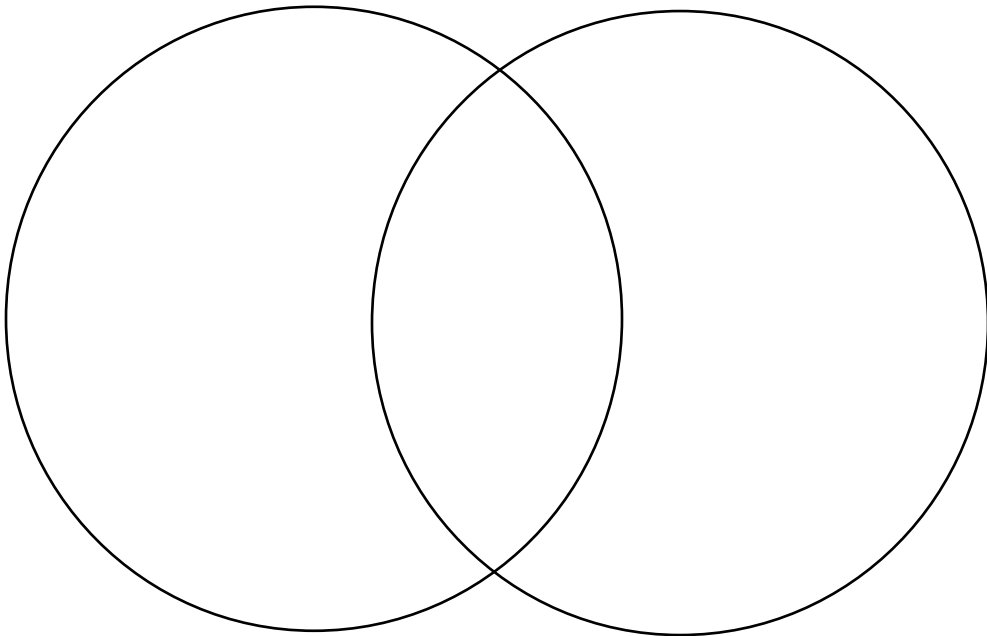
Meanwhile, his business ventures continued to do well, reportedly making DeBaptiste the richest black in Detroit in the 1800s. Much of that money he gave away to worthy causes, including supporting Underground Railroad activities. He organized Michigan’s colored regiment during the Civil War and worked for the Freedman’s Aid Commission afterwards.

**What can Conductors Teach Us about the Underground Railroad?**

***Directions: Highlight and annotate the text. Identify two important facts and one question you have about your assigned conductor.***

Conductor's name	
Interesting fact 1	
Interesting fact 2	
Your question	

**Compare and contrast the first conductor you researched in the Freedom Center with the second conductor you just read about.**



**Share what you learned with your classmates and have them teach you about the conductors they researched. Create a list on common understandings about conductors and a list of questions you still have about conductors.**

**What can Conductors Teach Us about the Underground Railroad?**

## Appendix D

### What does the Underground railroad teach us about the roles and responsibilities of citizens?

**Discuss:** As a class, discuss - What is the difference between a role and a responsibility?

**Think:** Using what you learned at the Freedom Center, generate a list of answers to the question: **What does the Underground railroad teach us about the roles and responsibilities of citizens?**

**Pair:** With a partner, compare your answers and discuss your reasoning.

**Share:** With your partner, share your ideas with the entire class and compile your answers into one list.

**Extend:** Read the provided opinions about the Underground Railroad and compare their ideas to the class list. Make additions to the list if you find new ideas.

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Describing one of the most significant internal resistance movements ever, the National Park Service said in a [1996 press release](#) that:

*The Underground Railroad was perhaps the most dramatic protest against human bondage in United States history. It was a clandestine operation that began during colonial times, grew as part of the organized abolitionist movement, and reached a peak between 1830 and 1865. The story is filled with excitement and triumph as well as tragedy—individual heroism and sacrifice as well as cooperation to help enslaved people reach freedom.*

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At the groundbreaking ceremony for the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#), President Obama mentioned that he wanted his daughters to see the famous African Americans like Harriet Tubman not as larger-than-life characters, but as inspiration of “*how ordinary Americans can do extraordinary things.*”

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In “[Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad](#),” Columbia University historian Eric Foner examines what this experience was like for fugitive slaves passing through New York City. He was interviewed by U.S. New in 2015.

Q: What is your assessment of the legacy of the Underground Railroad?



A: I find it actually very inspiring. We live in a time when race relations can be very fraught with tension, as we've seen over the last few months. Here's an example of interracial cooperation, which I think is something that is worth celebrating. In addition, there were 4 million slaves in 1860. Maybe a thousand a year got out of the South. That's not destroying the slave system. But the issue of fugitive slaves became a major flashpoint in the growing controversy between North and South. It played an outsized role compared to the actual numbers involved.

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National Parks Service: [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

The primary importance of the underground railroad was that it gave ample evidence of African American capabilities and gave expression to African American philosophy. Perhaps the most important factor or aspect to keep in mind concerning the underground railroad is that its importance is not measured by the number of attempted or successful escapes from American slavery, but by the manner in which it consistently exposed the grim realities of slavery and -- more important-- refuted the claim that African Americans could not act or organize on their own. The secondary importance of the underground railroad was that it provided an opportunity for sympathetic white Americans to play a role in resisting slavery. It also brought together, however uneasily at times, men and women of both races to begin to set aside assumptions about the other race and to work together on issues of mutual concern.

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Hilbert College: Social Justice Activists | Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was not an actual railway; rather it was a connection of underground networks between people with the common goals of abolition and helping slaves escape to freedom. The Railroad consisted of a number of different routes and safe havens. Contributors to the effort included free whites, abolitionist groups, Quakers, free blacks and enslaved blacks. The movement was indeed an interracial effort against the injustices and cruelty of slavery.

For as secret as the activities of the railroad had to be in order to ensure safety, there was just as much notoriety. The Underground Railroad became a catalyst for propaganda as both the abolitionists and slave owners used tales of escape to gain popular support for their cause. The abolitionists used the stories of successful escapes to rally to action those who supported the causes of equality and freedom

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## Appendix E

### What does the Underground Railroad teach us about social justice?

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center believes we can pursue **inclusive freedom** and **social justice** for all by building on the principles of the Underground Railroad: **courage, cooperation, and perseverance.**

**Courage** - ability to do something that you know is difficult or dangerous.

**Cooperation** - working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit

**Perseverance** - continued effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult or takes a long time

**Social Justice** - the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities.

Chicago University defines, “**inclusive freedom**” as “the robust protection of free expression and the assurance that all members – including those who could be marginalized, silenced, or excluded from full participation – have an opportunity to meaningfully engage in free expression, enquiry, and learning.”

Directions: Research a social justice movement and analyze its adherence to NURFC’s mission.

- What is the problem addressed by the movement? Who is affected?
- How is the problem impacting people locally, regionally, nationally, and/or globally?
- What caused the problem?
- How is the movement promoting social justice and/or inclusive freedom?
- What are the challenges faced by the movement?
- What have been the successes of the movement?
- What are your suggestions for future progress?

<p>Movement:</p> <p>Dates:</p>	
<p>What is the problem addressed by the movement? Who is affected?</p>	
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<p>What have been the successes of the movement?</p>	
<p>What are your suggestions for future progress?</p>	

## Appendix F

### What were the economic, geographic, political, and social effects of the cotton gin?

#### The Cotton Gin and Migration

In 1794, U.S.-born inventor Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin, a machine that revolutionized the production of cotton by greatly speeding up the process of removing seeds from cotton fiber. The cotton gin gave Southern planters a new cash crop that could make them very wealthy.

The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 opened the South to new agricultural development. Native Americans inhabited the Mississippi Territory (areas now known as Alabama and Mississippi). After Native Americans were forced from the area and moved to land acquired in the Louisiana Purchase, the Mississippi Territory became available for plantations. Between 1810 and 1839, planters from the Tidewater Region (Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas), moved west to new fertile lands. These planters brought with them their long-held beliefs about race and slavery. As a result, a massive number of enslaved African Americans were forcibly migrated west with the planters. By the mid-19th century, cotton had become America's leading export.



States and Territories of the United States of America in Central North America - October 1, 1804, to June 30, 1805

### **The Cotton Economy and Slavery**

Video (3 min.): The Cotton Economy and Slavery. <https://www.pbs.org/video/african-americans-many-rivers-cross-cotton-economy-and-slavery/>

Many stakeholders benefited from the cotton economy that fueled slavery's expansion. It increased the number of slaves in America and led to cotton plantations spreading across the Deep South to Texas. As African Americans were uprooted from the Upper South to the Deep South, this created the second largest forced migration in America's history.

### **Effects of the Cotton Gin**

#### **The National Archives (archives.gov)**

After the invention of the cotton gin, the yield (amount) of raw cotton doubled each decade after 1800. Demand was fueled by other inventions of the Industrial Revolution, such as machines to spin and weave it, and the steamboat to transport it. By 1850, America was growing three-quarters of the world's supply of cotton, most of it sent to New England or exported to England where it was manufactured into cloth. During this time tobacco fell in value, rice exports at best stayed steady, and sugar began to thrive, but only in Louisiana. By the mid-19th century, the South provided three-fifths of America's exports – most of it in cotton.

The most significant effect of the cotton gin, however, was the growth of slavery. While it was true that the cotton gin reduced the labor of removing seeds, it did not reduce the need for enslaved labor to grow and pick the cotton. In fact, the opposite occurred. Cotton growing became so profitable for enslavers that it greatly increased their demand for both land and enslaved labor. In 1790, there were six "slave states"; in 1860 there were 15. From 1790 until Congress banned the slave trade from Africa in 1808, Southerners imported 80,000 Africans. By 1860, approximately one in three Southerners was an enslaved person.

Because of the cotton gin, enslaved people labored on ever-larger plantations where work was more regimented (strict) and relentless (harsh and constant). As large plantations spread into the Southwest, the price of enslaved labor and land inhibited (prevented) the growth of cities and industries in the area. In the 1850s, seven-eighths of all immigrants settled in the North, where they found 72% of the nation's manufacturing capacity.

### **The South's Economy**

[https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3558](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtid=2&psid=3558)

Southern cities were small because they failed to develop diversified economies. A diversified economy has multiple sources of income. In general, having many different sources of income is better than having just one. Unlike the cities of the North, southern cities rarely became processing or finishing centers and southern ports rarely engaged in international trade. Their primary functions were to market and transport cotton or other agricultural crops, supply local planters and farmers with such necessities as agricultural implements, and produce the small number of manufactured goods, such as cotton gins, needed by farmers.

An overemphasis on slave-based agriculture led Southerners to neglect industry and transportation improvements. As a result, manufacturing and transportation fell far behind in comparison to the North. In 1860 the North had approximately 1.3 million industrial workers, whereas the South had 110,000, and northern factories manufactured nine-tenths of the industrial goods produced in the United States.

The South's transportation network was primitive by northern standards. Traveling the 1,460 overland miles from Baltimore to New Orleans in 1850 meant riding five different railroads, two stagecoaches, and two steamboats. Most southern railroads served primarily to transport cotton to southern ports, where the crop could be shipped on northern vessels to northern or British factories for processing.

**Directions: Identify the effects of the cotton gin based upon the provided information. Then, using the information and your prior understanding, make predictions about how the effects impacted future events in the U.S.**

	Effects	Predictions
Economic		
Geographic		
Political		
Social/Cultural		