The Underground Railroad

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What would happen to the slaves when the slave owner passed away? The slaves would often be passed onto slave owner’s family, be sold, or freed; but, whatever the owner chose had to be recorded at the local courthouse. Those records can still be viewed today.
Names of Enslaved People and Price at Courthouse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwin</td>
<td>240.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milly</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loris</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>225.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovel</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The Escape

- Often, when a slave would decide to try to run to freedom, it wasn’t a very easy decision. The trip was long, they had to travel at night, and they had no supplies. A common Underground Railroad route went right through the Northern Kentucky area.
Map of Common Escape Routes
On the Run

- Once the slaves were on the run the slave owners would often search for them and take out ads in newspapers or put up reward posters.
TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS!

REWARD!!

RUNAWAY SLAVE

Ran away from Arabi one MALE SLAVE named JIM. Six feet six inches tall, good stout build, about 35 years old. Wide smile, pleasant disposition. Last seen in a blue shirt and brown trousers.

I will give a REWARD of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS for his return.

Mr. William Pettee
Four Columns Plantation
Arabi
Great Escapes

- In order to outsmart some of the slave owners and bounty hunters, the runaways had to be sly. One man who became known as “Box Brown” hid himself in a small box and had the box shipped to a safe place in free territory.
“Box Brown”
The Long Journey

- The journey that made up the Underground Railroad was very difficult for the travelers. They were running from bounty hunters, slave owners, and sheriffs. They had to travel at night and often had no supplies or warm clothing. It was also dangerous for the free white people to help the runaways because if they were caught, they would face jail.
Famous Painting of the Underground Railroad
Shackled

- Sometimes when the slaves were transported and people thought they would try to runaway, they would be shackled. Some of the shackles used in that time to keep slaves from running are still in local museums to view.
Shackles
Journey to Freedom

- There were different routes that some of the escaped slaves tried to find freedom. Many, however, were right here in Northern Kentucky and right across the river in Ohio. There was one famous man who lived close to the Ohio River (Rev. Rankin). He lived high up on a hill and he kept a candle in his window so that the slaves could find their way in the dark. The trip up the hill from the river was steep, dark, and dangerous for the slaves.
View of Ohio River from Rankin House
The Rankin House

- Once at the Parker house, Rev. Rankin would try to help, clothe, and feed the runaways and hide them until it was safe for them to move on. There were a couple of places that he could try to hide the slaves at his house...
Cellar at the Rankin House
Upstairs Attic Area
The Underground Railroad

- There were many people who helped with making the Underground Railroad work. Many of these “conductors” can be read about in history books. However, not everyone who helped are listed in our books. It is important that we try to look more closely into our history to try to discover more than simply what the books tell us.
THE
END