Uncovering the Path to Freedom:
Photographs of Underground Railroad Sites
by William E. Williams
Educational Resource Materials

The Sheldon Art Galleries, Gallery of Photography
February 19 – May 15, 2010

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The Underground Railroad Made Visible

During the decades that preceded the Civil War, no issue was more divisive than slavery in the United States, which originated in the West Indies in 1501. The first Africans came to Jamestown Island in 1619 as indentured servants to work in the tobacco fields. The colony lacked a legal framework for slavery until 40 years after that date, and the great increase in the slave population did not start until 1700. The importation of more Africans in subsequent years, eventually lead to the legal enslavement of these people in Virginia. Most Virginia slaves were apparently imported from the Caribbean islands, rather than shipped directly from Africa. According to the acting governor in Virginia in 1680, "what negroes were brought to Virginia were imported generally from Barbados for it was very rare to have a negro ship come to this Country directly from Africa." 1

The Underground Railroad is one of history’s finest symbols of the struggle against the institution of slavery. This invisible railroad was composed of men and women, blacks and whites, and people of all ages. They put their moral beliefs ahead of liberty and personal property. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850, this already secretive and illegal activity became even more clandestine.

Enslaved people seeking freedom and their allies adopted the names and symbols of the railroad to safely travel this secretive route. The conductors and stationmasters along the many routes of this passage adopted the name of the most technologically advanced form of transportation available during the 19th century – railroading. The advent of rail transportation was a national phenomenon that had a profound effect on national transportation. The knitting together of the country via the railroad had the ironic effect of increasing and defining the geographical divisions between the states (or we could say simply “the division between the states”). As the economy grew, Americans experienced prosperity in unparalleled numbers. Border States from Delaware to Missouri experienced this turbulence as traffic on the Underground Railroad increased with passengers seeking freedom tickets from the slave holding regions. The border states of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the states immediately to the north of them, developed a strong abolitionist identity from the 1830s on. New York and Michigan with their proximity to Canada and abundant land and water routes have left this region with a rich heritage of places and buildings to make visible this invisible railroad.

The photographs in this exhibition show places both well-known and obscure that played a part in the history of the Underground Railroad – from the Caribbean to the Deep South to the shores of Lake Ontario. Two of the most famous “conductors” on the Underground Railroad were Harriet Tubman and John Brown. Both lived in Upstate New York and maintained stations on their properties in Auburn and in North Elba. Today, both are larger-than-life historical figures whose importance in American and regional history is well established.

Few people today have ever heard of Upstate New York conductors and stationmasters John W. Jones of Elmira, Grace Wilson of Cazenovia, or Gerrit Smith of Peterboro. James Walker, an African-American, was a well known stationmaster and conductor in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

These are a few of the mostly unknown conductors who played important roles in both the operation of the Underground Railroad and the creation of local support for its operation. The station stops on the Underground Railroad suffer from a similar fate to that of the conductors-anonymity. Although some stops were well-known, including the Hosanna Meeting House located in Pennsylvania near the Maryland/Delaware state lines, and Levi Coffin’s home in Fountain City Indiana.

The act of researching and locating these sites was the starting point for my creative investigation. The resulting photographs have become more than just documents. I have responded to the vernacular landscapes by using a variety of camera techniques including sharp focus, depth of field, and medium and large format negatives to heighten the metaphoric content of the images. A careful reading of the photographs will reveal a rich material world as well as another world that can only be hinted at because of the silence of these places. It is my hope that this aesthetic approach will enable the viewer to make psychological connections to these highly charged and storied places.

-- William Earle Williams

William Earle Williams Biography

William Earle Williams has been photographing Underground Railroad sites for more than 25 years. His photography career began while he was an undergraduate at Hamilton College. In 2001, he discovered Hamilton's abolitionist history, and took a special interest in Underground Railroad sites in that part of New York State. In 2003, Williams received an artist’s residency at Light Work, in Syracuse, New York, which provided him with the opportunity to make an extended document of sites in Central Upstate New York. In that same year, Williams received a Guggenheim Fellowship, which enabled him to do extensive research on additional sites around the country. Since then, Williams has visited sites in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Mississippi, West Virginia, and Eastern Ontario in Canada and many others to continue this document of powerful yet sensitive photographs of these important sites.

An educator, curator and photographer, Williams’ photographic work has focused on sites of African-American history and slave culture. The Underground Railroad project is related to work he has done on landscapes fought on and inhabited by Black Civil War soldiers, as well as a project he has been developing on slave sites in the Caribbean. William E. Williams received his BA in History at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York and his MFA in Fine Arts at Yale University School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut. He is Audrey A. and John L. Dusseau Professor of Humanities, Professor of Fine Arts and Curator of Photography at Haverford College in Pennsylvania, where he has taught since 1978. His works can be found in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, among others. In addition to receiving a grant from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 2003, he has also received grants from the Ford Foundation, a Pew Fellowship in the arts and numerous others.
Information on the Photographs and Sites

The label texts were researched and written by William E. Williams and Hamilton College students Katerina Adair, Ilana Carlin and Sophia Francl and edited by Deborah Pokinski and Susanna White for exhibition and catalog titled Uncovering the Path to Freedom, Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College, January 14 to April 13, 2008.

Abraham Brian (Bryan) Barn, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1986

Abraham Brian (Bryan) was a fugitive slave who purchased a twelve-acre farm in 1857. The site was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad and Brian successfully farmed the land until his property and buildings were destroyed during the battle at Gettysburg. Bullet holes from the battle can be seen in the upright corner of this photograph.

William Parker Farm, site of 1851 Christiana Riot, Christiana, Pennsylvania, 1998

William Parker, an escaped slave, offered his farm as a station on the Underground Railroad. He was a principal participant in the Christiana Resistance Riot of 1851 when four fugitive slaves ran to his house for shelter from slave hunters. The riot broke out as the fugitive slaves and their supporters fought back against a posse of slave hunters, led by Edward Gorsuch, a slaveholder from near by Maryland who died in his attempt to retrieve his run away slaves. This event tested the new federal Fugitive Slave Law and foreshadowed the imminent coming of the Civil War.

A testament to the tolerance and acceptance of blacks in Paris Hill, the grave of seven fugitive slaves takes a prominent place in the Village’s Hillcrest Cemetery. John Roberts and his wife were fugitives who fled from Maryland to this Central New York haven. Inscribed: IN MEMORY OF JOHN ROBERTS, MARY HIS WIFE AND FIVE FRIENDS. BORN WHILE SLAVES, FOUND HOME AND FREEDOM AT PARIS BETWEEN 1846 & 1881. The granite memorial marker highlights Paris’s role as a safe, integrated community.

Grace Wilson’s Apple Orchard Site, Cazenovia, New York, 2003

In 1850, Frederick Douglas and Gerrit Smith held the Cazenovia Fugitive Slave Law Convention meeting in Grace Wilson’s apple orchard. The meeting opened on August 21, 1850 at the Free Congregational Church of Cazenovia. When it became evident that the Church could not hold the crowd of over 2,000 people who attended, abolitionist Grace Wilson offered her apple orchard as a meeting place. This rally was organized in reaction to the proposed Fugitive Slave Act and was important for abolitionists because this act sought to permit the arrest and return of runaway slaves as well as to condemn those who concealed fugitives.

Stephen Myers Settlement, New York, 2003

A former slave, Stephen Myers was not only a stationmaster on Albany’s Underground Railroad, but also a temperance advocate, journalist, and staunch civil rights lobbyist. Myers focused his political efforts on equalizing the right to vote by lobbying to abolish the law stating a man must own 250 dollars worth of land to vote. Knowing that a black homestead would give African-Americans these rights and a place to build their free lives, Myers asked close, fellow abolitionist Gerrit Smith for land to set up an independent black settlement, similar to “Timbuctoo” which Smith sponsored in the Adirondack Mountains.
**St. Paul Episcopal Church, Green, Paris Hill, New York, 2003**

This chapel, named to the National Historic Registry, was the first parish in the Episcopal diocese in Central New York. Located on the village green in Paris Hill, the Church is located on the turn in the road where the Underground Railroad would have gone through.

**Dr. R.F. Kennedy Farm House, Sharpsburg, Maryland, 1999**

John Brown rented this small two-story farmhouse and used it as a planning ground for his raid on the Federal Armory at Harpers Ferry. John Brown rented the house under the name Isaac Smith. Gerrit Smith, along with other wealthy abolitionists, was one of the financial supporters of this action. The Kennedy Farm House is a site closely associated with the raid because firearms were stockpiled, plans were deliberated, and tactics were pondered upon—all in the farmhouse.

**Site of Harpers Ferry, 1859 Arsenal Raid, Charlestown, West Virginia, 1999**

John Brown’s raid, which was planned and organized in the Kennedy Farm House, took place at the Federal armory at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. A large amount of ammunition was seized in an attempt to provoke a slave uprising. Some consider the raid to be the spark that ignited the Civil War, and the site at Harpers Ferry marks the “beginning of the end” of slavery.
Cabin, Knob Creek Farm, Kentucky, 1995

“My earliest recollection is of the Knob Creek place,” Abraham Lincoln once said. The boyhood home of Abraham Lincoln was situated on a prominent traveling route at the time. Slave dealers who used this route would sometimes stay overnight with their cargo—thus began Lincoln’s hatred of slavery at an early age. The cabin was an old homestead, with a creek nearby where Lincoln would fish, and rolling hills surrounding the farm premises.

President’s House, Site of Lane Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1995

Lane Seminary was a bible school, a leading institution in supporting the abolishment of slavery and a station for the Underground Railroad. The President’s House was built for Seminary President Lyman Beecher in 1833. In 1834, Lane Seminary held an eighteen-day debate on slavery. Because of Lane Seminary’s involvement in the fight against slavery, it pushed the academic freedom of religious schools during the 1800s. Hamilton students Theodore Weld and Asa Mahan (Class of 1824) were active participants and were known as the “Lane Rebels.” Both left the Seminary to study at Oberlin College with Mahan becoming Oberlin College’s first president in 1835.

Peter Smith’s Counting House and Land Office, Peterboro, New York, 2003

Peter Smith (1768-1837) was a long-time partner of John Jacob Astor and owned an estate located on the village green in Peterboro, New York. His son, Gerrit, was a leading abolition advocate. When Gerrit graduated from Hamilton College in 1818, he was given control of the estate and the rest of his father’s holdings. He worked out of the land office. The estate was the managerial center of the Smith family’s business ventures and became an active station in the Underground Railroad. Today, the Counting House and Land Office are the only buildings that remain.
Jermain Lougen Grave Site, Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, New York, 2003

Jermain Lougen (1809-1872) escaped from slavery in Tennessee and settled in Syracuse, NY. He attended the Oneida Institute, a training ground for many abolitionist ministers. He was minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and an active participant in the Underground Railroad. He openly used his house in Syracuse as a station for fugitive slaves and participated in abolitionist rallies such as the Fugitive Slave Law Convention in 1848.

Gerrit Smith Grave Site, Smith Family Plot, Peterboro Baptist Cemetery, New York, 2001

Gerritt Smith is buried in the village cemetery in his hometown of Peterboro. Smith inherited his 30-acre estate from his father, Peter, the namesake of the village of Peterboro. Smith’s estate served as a major station on the Underground Railroad, a key resting and forwarding point for fugitive slaves. The estate also served as the replacement venue for the 1835 Abolitionist Convention after it was displaced from Utica. Today, little remains of the estate. The main house was destroyed in a 1936 furnace fire.

Slave Monument, Fort DeRussy, Marksville, Louisiana, 2004

Fort DeRussy is an earthen fort, built during the Civil War in 1862 to defend the Red River against naval intrusions. Its namesake is Colonel Lewis G. DeRussy, the engineering officer in charge of the fortifications construction. Fort DeRussy was the site of major Civil War engagements. This granite monument was erected in 1999 to honor the 69 slaves known to have died in the process of building the fort. It includes the names of the 65 slaves known to have died during the construction of the fort and four marked “Unknown.”
Robert Purvis House, 1601 Mount Vernon Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2002

Robert Purvis was an anti-slavery leader andabolitionist. Himself a mulatto, Purvis married thedaughter of an African-American businessman. Hisearlier home was an important safe house for theUnderground Railroad and this structure contains roomsin the basement that may have been used to transferfreedom seekers to the next station. Purvis was the lastsurvivor of the National Anti-Slavery Society. At thetime of his death in 1898, Purvis was hailed as thePresident of the Underground Railroad. Today, it isunderstood that the Underground Railroad was a loose
network of activists without a central leadership.

Birth Site of Gerrit Smith, Utica, New York, 2003

Born on March 6, 1797, Gerrit Smith’s Utica birth site melds in to the city’s current landscape. Attached on the south side of a building on Broad Street (between Mohawk and Hubbell Streets) owned by the Broad Street Warehouse Corporation, this bronze plaque commemorates Smith’s birth.

Site of Second Presbyterian Church, Utica, New York, 2003

At the heart of the Central New York anti-slaverymovement, Utica was a hotbed of abolitionist sentiment and conservative opposition. The tension reached a breaking point in 1835 when 600 delegates met at the Second Presbyterian Church to form a regional division of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Conservative Uticans, both the lower class and elite, vehemently mobbed the Convention, chanting and threatening violence. It was this outbreak that prompted Gerritt Smith to move the entire meeting to his estate in Peterboro. Not only was this event significant for the region, but it was also the moment that turned 38-year-old Smith “from a passive to a militant abolitionist, one of the greatest in the country.”
Slave Entrance, Melrose House, Natchez, Mississippi, 2004

The Melrose house was one of the wealthiest homes of 19th-century Natchez, Mississippi. In the 1820s, John McMurrnan moved from Pennsylvania to Natchez, MA, where he established a lucrative law practice and was elected to the State Legislature. He earned a considerable fortune and married into a respected local family. Through this marriage, McMurrnan acquired five plantations and purchased another 133 acres in 1841. Between 1841 and 1849, an enslaved labor force constructed the Melrose Estate. Once the McMurrnan family moved in, slaves served an intricate role in everyday life as they maintained the buildings and grounds of the estate. Slaves worked as cooks, waiters, butlers, drivers, gardeners, and farmers.

Site of the Utica Rescue, Judge Chester Hayden’s Office, Utica, New York, 2003

The Utica Rescue of 1836 was one of the first abolitionist rescues and signifies the materialization of the Underground Railroad. Two fugitive slaves, Harry Bird and George, were brought to Judge Chester Hayden's courthouse where their previous owner filed charges of their escape. In the course of the trial, Harry and George were brought to a back room where white and black citizens of Utica broke in and rescued the fugitives.

George and Julia Perkins House, Basement, Athens, Pennsylvania, 2003

The Perkins House was a safe house stop on the Underground Railroad route. Located on the Susquehanna River, it was an ideal stop for fugitive slaves escaping to the North. George Perkins was a pharmacist and used the empty barrels that supplied drug products to hide fugitive slaves. The traffic associated with his profession allowed discretion in harboring fugitives who would then hide in a room in the house that was disguised as a chimney built in the house.
Levi Coffin Barn, Fountain City, Indiana, 2001
The Levi Coffin house is a registered National Historic Landmark. Built in 1839, this Federal style brick home was used as an Underground Railroad station and this wagon was used to transport fugitive slaves. Levi and Catharine Coffin were Quakers who opposed slavery. They accommodated fugitive slaves on their journey to freedom in the North. The Coffins hid escaping slaves in a secret upstairs room and placed beds in front the door to conceal the entrance. The fugitives stayed at the Coffins’ home for a couple of weeks to gain enough strength to continue on their journey. The Coffins successfully concealed over 2,000 fugitives and no slaves failed to reach freedom from their house. In 1847, the Coffins moved to Cincinnati so that Levi could operate a wholesale warehouse that supplied goods to free labor stores. The Coffins continued to assist the cause, helping another 1,300 slaves escape. Levi Coffin Historical Document: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h2946t.html

Lake Avenue, Adjacent to William Hubbard House, Ashtabula, Ohio, 2001
The William Hubbard House, or “Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard” and “The Great Emporium” as it came to be called, was one of the last stops for fugitive slaves in Ohio. Arriving in 1834, Hubbard (under the influence of his brothers) became immediately involved in the Ashtabula County Anti-Slavery Society. Building his home with his wife in 1840 on the south shore of Lake Erie, its location provided easy access to freedom in Canada. The family hid an innumerable amount of slaves in the home’s basement and barn, successfully assisting every fugitive guest to safety across the border.

Alley, from the rear of Franklin & Armfield Slave Traders, Alexandria, Virginia, 2004
Franklin and Armfield Slave Traders, one of the most active slave trading firms, sold at least one-third of all slaves in the Deep South in the 1820s and 1830s. A first hand account by abolitionist Professor E.A. Andrews compares the building to a penitentiary, its meticulous cleanliness, white-washed exterior and interior, high walls, bolts, and bars, more deplorable than a prison because of the inhabitants’ ancestral life sentence to bondage. The sight remained active until 1861 when the Union Army invaded Alexandria and converted it to a prison for the rest of the war.
Entrance driveway, Rosedown, St. Francisville, Louisiana, 2004
Rosedown Plantation, encompassing 374 acres in St. Francisville, is one of the most intact, documented examples of a domestic plantation complex in the South. At its height, the plantation encompassed 3,455 acres. Near the great house are several dependencies, most notably three latticed summerhouses and a Greek temple style doctor's office partially pictured to the left. What distinguishes the landscape of Rosedown is its gardens, notable for their size, sophistication and refined plant collections. The gardens were the passion of Martha Turnbull and her garden diary provides invaluable insight into the story of the garden's planting and management. Rosedown's labor-intensive gardens and entrance landscape were made possible by an enslaved African work force. Martha names individual slaves frequently in her diary, indicating that they were essential in the planting and maintenance of this landscape.

Old Fort House, Fort Edward, New York, 2001
Solomon Northup, an educated black man who was born free but later drugged and sold into slavery, lived in what was known as the “old yellow house” in Fort Edward, New York. In 1835, twelve years after Northup was sold, he was found and freed. He wrote Twelve Years as a Slave and his narrative won him national fame. However, the “old yellow house” was rooted in history long before Solomon Northup occupied it. It was built with timber from the Fort Edward fortification during the French and Indian War, and was used as both British and American headquarters during the Revolutionary War. In addition, George Washington dined there at least twice.

Stairway, Oswego Public Library, Oswego, New York, 2003
Gerrit Smith donated this library to the citizens of Oswego. It was made available to everyone, regardless of color. Smith used his land holdings in Oswego to help slaves escape to Canada. A port for Lake Ontario, Oswego had numerous important stops on the Underground Railroad and was an active site for abolitionists because of its proximity to Canada.
Reverend G. W. Gale founded the Oneida Institute in 1827. It was an integrated college that focused on science and technology. The Institute was the first college in America to enroll both black and white male students. Gerrit Smith served as a trustee here and Jermain Loguen attended the Oneida Institute. In July, 1832, “thirty-five students organized New York State’s first antislavery society based on the immediatist principals.”

James and Lucy Pirrie built this plantation and in 1821 they hired John James Audubon as a drawing teacher for their daughter, Eliza. The plantation became Audubon’s home for four months. Because the plantation remained in family hands into the 20th-century, it has become an important archaeological site for interpreting African-American life on Southern plantations. This slave cabin is not original to the plantation. It was relocated to Oakley, now part of the Audubon Memorial State Park, and restored to illustrate slave life on Louisiana plantations.

Paul Lawrence Dunbar (1782-1906) was an influential and eminent African-American poet. His poems are based on his observations of society and the experiences of his parents, who were both former slaves. His poetry voices the social dilemma of disenfranchised people and proclaims black dignity.
John Jones House, Elmira, New York, 2003

John Jones, a fugitive slave, played a critical role in the Central New York Underground Railroad. Jones ushered over 800 slaves to permanent freedom through his farmhouse in Elmira, New York. The home was at risk of being condemned in 1997, but a group of concerned citizens took action, forming a non-profit organization to save it. Today, the home is being restored and opened as a historic museum commemorating this important Underground Railroad conductor.

The Jerry Rescue and the Fugitive Slave Act Series

In 1850, Frederick Douglas and Gerrit Smith held the Cazenovia Fugitive Slave Law Convention meeting in Grace Wilson’s apple orchard (see photograph #4 in room 1 of this exhibit). The meeting opened on August 21st, 1850 at the Free Congregational Church of Cazenovia. When it became evident that the Church could not hold the crowd of over 2,000 people who attended, abolitionist Grace Wilson offered her apple orchard as a meeting place. This rally was organized in reaction to the proposed Fugitive Slave Act and was important for abolitionists because this act sought to permit the arrest and return runaway slaves as well as condemn those who concealed fugitives.

William "Jerry " Henry was an escaped slave from Missouri whose mother was a mulatto and his father was his mother’s master. As a young man he had been sold to a John McReynolds of Missouri from whom he escaped by way of the Underground Railroad settling in Syracuse. On October 1, 1851, Henry was accused of being a fugitive slave and arrested under the provisions of the revised Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Later that day he was rescued from jail by a crowd of black and white abolitionists. This event, which became known as the “Jerry Rescue,” was electrifying news cheered in the north and condemned in the south.

Another related case, known well in St. Louis, is the case of Dred Scott vs. Sandford of 1857. Dred Scott (1799 – September 17, 1858), was a slave who sued unsuccessfully in St. Louis, Missouri for his freedom. Scott argued that though he and his wife Harriet Scott were slaves, they had followed their master, Dr. John Emerson, and had lived in several states where slavery was illegal according to the individual state laws and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The United States Supreme Court ruled 7 to 2 against Scott, finding that neither he, nor any person of African ancestry could claim citizenship in the United States, and that he therefore he could not bring suit in federal court under diversity of citizenship rules. It was also ruled that Scott’s temporary residence outside Missouri did not affect his emancipation under the Missouri Compromise, because reaching that result would deprive Scott’s owner of his property.

Type “William Earle Williams” in the Search bar to see all images in the series.
Clinton Square, Jerry Rescue Demonstration Site, Syracuse, New York, 2003

1851 Raynor Block, Jerry Rescue Jail Site, Syracuse, New York, 2003

Toll Booth Site and back of Deb’s Restaurant, Jerry Rescue Transfer Point, Hastings, New York, 2003

Interior Deb’s Restaurant, Near Jerry Rescue Transfer Point, Hastings, New York, 2003
This town and its harbor were the last stop on the Underground Railroad's Central New York line in the United States. Directly across from Oswego is Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The final destination for fugitives seeking freedom. William "Jerry" Henry was the most famous passenger on this line. He found shelter in Kingston at the home of Joseph George and obtained employment in the chair factory of Chester Hatch. He died of tuberculosis in Kingston General Hospital on October 8, 1853. The Jerry Rescue and the September 11 armed resistance to slave catchers at Christiana, Pennsylvania were portents leading up to the Civil War.
Who am I?

A matching worksheet to accompany the exhibit
Uncovering the Path to Freedom: Photographs of UGRR by
Wm. E. Williams.

A. George Perkins
B. John Roebling
C. Dred Scott
D. William E. Williams
E. Robert Purvis
F. Grace Wilson
G. William “Jerry” Henry
H. Harriet Beecher Stowe
I. John Jones
J. Harriet Tubman
K. James Walker
L. William Parker
M. Alex Haley
N. Paul Lawrence Dunbar
O. John Rankin
P. Levi Coffin
Q. Stephen Meyers

1. A famous female conductor on the Underground Railroad
2. African-American station master and conductor in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
3. Quaker and he harbored escaped slaves
4. Photographer and researcher
5. Escaped slave and owned a farm which was a station on the Underground Railroad
6. Abolitionist and owner of an apple orchard
7. Temperance advocate, journalist, staunch civil rights lobbyist and former slave
8. Mulatto, anti-slavery leader, abolitionist, and President of the Underground Railroad
9. Pharmacist and he harbored fugitive slaves
10. Fugitive slave and ushered over 800 slaves to freedom
11. African-American poet
12. Author of Uncle Tom’s Cabin
13. Author of Roots
14. Presbyterian minister and educator, anti-slavery supporter
15. Covington-Cincinnati Bridge builder
16. Escaped slave from Missouri, “Jerry Rescue” named for him
17. Sued for his freedom in Scott vs. Sandford, 1857
Exhibit Visit Scavenger Hunt

1. What is William Williams’ middle name?

2. In which state is Stephen Myers settlement?

3. Whose barn is featured in the photo in Fountain City, Indiana?

4. What is the full name of the man involved in the event called “Jerry Rescue”?

5. What state did he come from?

6. Whose grandparents’ swing is featured in the photo in Henning, Tennessee, 1995?

7. Who was Paul Laurence Dunbar?

8. What book was inspired by the Court House Green in Washington Kentucky?

9. Where was Abraham Brian’s (Bryan) 12 acre farm located?

10. What name did John Brown use to rent the Dr. R. F. Kennedy Farm house in Sharpsburg, Maryland?

11. What village was named for Gerrit Smith’s father, Peter?

12. Which safe house stop on the Underground Railroad was located on the Susquehanna River, in Athens, PA?

13. Who donated the Oswego public library to the citizens of Oswego, New York?

14. Who was nailed into a box and shipped to the Philadelphia Vigilance Society and to freedom?

15. Which corps were organized in St. Louis and “worked in a secretive fashion to help African-American before the war”?

16. Which church was the location of the formation of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Utica, New York on May 31, 1843?
**Resources:**

**Answers to Worksheet:**
1. I, 2. o, 3. q, 4. d, 5. h, 6. f, 7. p, 8. l, 9. j, 10. a, 11. b, 12. e, 13. m, 14. k, 15. n, 16. c, 17. g

**Answers to Scavenger Hunt:**

**Additional Projects:**

**Essay Project (History, Social Studies, Writing Skills, Library/Research Skills)**
Choose a personage mentioned in the exhibition texts and prepare a research paper on them, giving additional details on their life and circumstances.

**Art Project (Fine Art, Writing Skills, Library/Research Skills)**
Research and photograph or sketch St. Louis Underground Railroad Sites, write a short description of why the sites are important.

**Geography/Mapping**
Find and mark the locations of Underground Railroad sites in William Williams’ exhibition on a map of the United States.
Web Resources

General
William E. Williams, *Uncovering the Path to Freedom* website, Hamilton College
http://academics.hamilton.edu/emersongallery/upf/Uncovering_the_Path_to_Freedom/Home.html

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Educator Resources
http://www.undergroundrailroad.com/expand-your-knowledge/educator-resources/

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Lesson Plans
http://www.undergroundrailroad.com/expand-your-knowledge/educator-resources/lesson-plans/

Social Studies for Kids:
http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/undergroundrailroad1.htm


4 to Explore: http://www.42explore2.com/undergrd.htm

Scholastic: http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/index.htm

Indiana Department of Natural Resources – (good bibliography, web site list):
http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/4162.htm

African-American Tourism Development Resources Site (good bibliography, web site list):
http://www.freedomtrails2legacies.org/ugrr2.htm

St. Louis-Specific:
The Mary Meachum Crossing, St. Louis, Missouri:
http://www.confluencegreenway.org/locations/mfc.php

Mary Meachum Crossing Article:

The Peter Hudlin UGRR Site, St. Louis:
http://tibetan.tripod.com/cr-peter.htm

Alton, Illinois:
Dred Scott
Missouri Archives

PBS Documentary on Dred Scott

Questions and Activities for teachers and students (PBS):
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/tguide/4tgquestact.html

Additional Information about Slavery and Dred Scott:
http://americancivilwar.com/colored/dred_scott.html

Harriet Tubman:


National Geographic: http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad/j2.html

Books and Videos

Books by William Earle Williams:
Contact Sheet: William Earle Williams, published by Light Work, Syracuse, 2007
Paperback: 48 pages with illustrations
ISBN: 0-935445-50-1
To Order: http://lightwork.org/store/cs140.html

Uncovering the Path to Freedom: Photographs of the Underground Railroad by William Earle Williams, Published by Hamilton College, Emerson Galleries, 2008
Paperback: 30 pages with illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-880640-12-8
To Order: http://onthehill.hamilton.edu/college/emerson_gallery/catalogues.html

Reading List for ages K-3:
Books:

**Videos:**

**Adult Reading**


Key Words

1. Abolitionists
2. Bounty Hunter
3. Conductor
4. Cooperation
5. Courage
6. Freedom
7. Freedom Seeker
8. Fugitive Slave Act
9. Hero
10. Passenger
11. Perseverance
12. Safe House
13. Slavery
14. Slave Catcher
15. Underground Railroad

This education packet is presented in conjunction with the exhibition Uncovering the Path to Freedom: Photographs of Underground Railroad Sites by William E. Williams.

The individual image texts were researched and written by William E. Williams and Hamilton College students Katerina Adair, Ilana Carlin and Sophia Francl and edited by Deborah Pokinski and Susanna White for exhibition and catalog titled Uncovering the Path to Freedom, Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College, January 14 to April 13, 2008.

The education packet is written and compiled by Olivia Lahs-Gonzales, Director the Sheldon Art Galleries and Rebecca Gunter, Gallery Coordinator and Education Manager.

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