

“Networks of Flight, Escape, and Freedom: Exploring the history of the Underground Railroad in the Ohio-Kentucky-West Virginia Tristate Region.”

What was the Underground Railroad and how did it operate within the Appalachian tristate region of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia?

Tune into the podcast to hear Dr. Andrew Feight provide answers to these questions.

Dr. Feight has also collected additional resources you can access that allow deeper exploration of the Underground Railroad in the region, the state of Ohio, and nationally.

Explore the local history of the Underground Railroad with the Scioto Historical Project

- Explore the history of the [Underground Railroad in Portsmouth](#) and the surrounding Tristate Region of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia with the [Scioto Historical Project's website](#) and mobile app ([Apple](#) or [Google Play](#)). Take a virtual and real-world walking tour of Underground Railroad history in downtown Portsmouth, Ohio.
- [Learn more about the story of 19-year-old Harriet](#), who escaped her enslavement in Greenup County, Kentucky, thanks to the operations of the Underground Railroad in Portsmouth, Ohio.
- And, find out about the [escape of Joshua on board the Steamer Bostona](#), which carried this Freedom Seeker from Vanceburg, Kentucky, to Portsmouth, Ohio, where he soon disappeared on the city's network to freedom.

Listen to Underground Railroad Podcasts

- Stream a [“Short History of ... the Underground Railroad,”](#) from the Noiser Podcast Network.
- Go deeper with ["Runaway Railroad,"](#) an episode from "The History of American Slavery," a podcast series from Slate History. In this episode, the hosts tell the story of John Parker of Ripley, Ohio and explore the complicated history of the Underground Railroad, starting with one of southern Ohio's most famous African American Underground

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Railroad conductors. This more in-depth podcast examines how the Underground Railroad worked and why the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 led the American people toward Civil War.

Watch Underground Railroad Videos on YouTube

- Award-winning American historian Clint Smith hosts a video series, [Crash Course Black American History](#), which provides a good, quick review of the history of the Underground Railroad.
- Watch a short video on Ohio's Underground Railroad in this video, ["Ohio's Underground Railroad to Freedom,"](#) from Ideastream's series "Know Ohio."
- Listen to Kathleen Battle, a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, sing the American classic, ["Lord, How Come Me Here"](#) at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Recorded in this traditional African American spiritual, one can gain insight into the oppression of slavery and what drove Freedom Seekers to escape on the Underground Railroad.
- Listen to Kathleen Battle, a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, sing ["Swing Low, Sweet Chariot / Ride Up in the Chariot"](#) at Carnegie Hall in New York City. Originating in the days of slavery, this spiritual song was popularized by the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the years after abolition.

Explore Primary Sources on the Underground Railroad and the Abolition of Slavery

- Explore the records of the Underground Railroad through the [Wilbur Siebert Collection](#) at the Ohio History Connection. Research local topics and read interviews recorded in the 1890s of Freedom Seekers and those who assisted them.
- View and read the original printed version of the [13th Amendment](#), which abolished slavery in the United States. The National Archives provides this digitized copy of the House Joint Resolution Proposing the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, January 31, 1865.

Underground Railroad Lesson Plans

Thanks to the National Archives, the National Park Service, and the National Humanities Center, educators have many professionally developed lesson plans which they can adapt to their own classrooms.

- The National Archives provides a lesson plan that explores the chronology of abolition. Entitled ["From Slavery to Juneteenth: Emancipation and Ending Enslavement: Finding a Sequence,"](#) this activity asks students to place in proper sequence "key events related to both the expansion of slavery and the emancipation of enslaved people by placing documents in chronological order. Documents were chosen to call attention to the

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struggle's length, the steps forward and back, and the variety of people (from enslaved people themselves to abolitionists and politicians) who played a role in ending the institution of slavery."

- The National Park Service's [Network To Freedom](#) program provides lesson plans that "are catered to specific sites or states, but can still illustrate the experience of the Underground Railroad and teach valuable lessons. These plans can also be presented and taught as written, or can serve as a starting point to stimulate more ideas and conversations for the classroom."
- The National Humanities Center provides [lesson plans by Matthew Pinsker](#), Pohanka Professor of American Civil War History, at Dickinson College: