

## Teachers!

Please join us for school tours of the new Underground Railroad Interpretive Center



# Freedom Crossing The Underground Railroad in Greater Niagara

at the Castellani Art Museum  
of Niagara University

Our new interpretive center serves as an important resource for the entire region, demonstrating the role that Greater Niagara played in the Underground Railroad movement. The exhibition includes historical documents; photographs of activists, “safe houses,” and crossing sites; artifacts; and videos.

### **School tours:**

Tours include hands-on activities and a library of children’s books pertaining to the Underground Railroad. Teachers may request to have a story read during their visit. For a guided tour for your class, call 286.8200.

### **Pre-Visit Suggestions:**

To make your trip to the museum more exciting and relevant, we recommend that you visit the following list of websites before your visit. Some of these contain lesson plans, several of which address national and NY State learning standards. For a bibliography of children’s, early readers and young adult books, as well as other related resources, please visit our website @ [www.niagara.edu/cam](http://www.niagara.edu/cam).

### **Standards-based Lesson Plans:**

The Castellani Art Museum is currently collaborating with Niagara University’s Education Department to develop its own series of NY State standards-based lesson plans to accompany the exhibit. Look for these on our website in early December 2006 at [www.niagara.edu/cam](http://www.niagara.edu/cam) as well as professional development opportunities for teachers at the museum.

Web Sites:

***Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad***

<http://www2.lhric.org/pocantico/tubman/tubman.html/>

***History of the Underground Railroad in Northern NY***

(See Lesson Plan #8)

<http://www.seawaytrail.com/lessonplans.asp>

***The Underground Railroad from the National Park Service***

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/underground>

***The Underground Railroad from the History Channel***

<http://www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/>

***National Underground Railroad Freedom Center***

<http://www.freedomcenter.org/exhibits/escape.html>

***Underground Railroad in New York***

<http://www.nyhistory.com/ugrr>

***Underground Railroad in Ontario***

The John Freeman Walls Historic Site and Underground Railroad Museum

<http://www.undergroundrailroadmuseum.com>

***The Queens Historical Society*** offers both a supplemental American history textbook, *The Road to Freedom: The Underground Railroad, New York and Beyond*, for 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up, and document-based teaching aids for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

<http://www.queenshistoricalsociety.org/documented.html>

***The National Geographic*** web site offers an interactive journey on the Underground Railroad and a number of classroom activities

[www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad)

***William Still Underground Railroad Foundation, Inc.***

Site includes biographies of a number of abolitionists.

[www.undergroundrr.com/foundation/resources.htm](http://www.undergroundrr.com/foundation/resources.htm)

***The Friends of Freedom Society- Ohio Underground Railroad Association***

<http://Ohioundergroundrailroad.org>

Maps- Ex. Slavery in the US (1775-1865)

***Voices from the Days of Slavery*** (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/voices/>

*Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers Project*  
(Library of Congress )

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

*African-American Women, Online Archival Collections* (Duke University)  
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

*African American Sheet Music, 1820-1920* (Brown University)  
<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/sheetmusic/afam/index.html>

*African American Newspapers: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century* (Accessible Archives)\*subscription only  
<http://www.accessible.com/default.htm>

*Slavery and the Making of America*  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/>

*Slavery in New York* (New York Historical Society)  
<http://www.slaveryinnewyork.org/>

*History Matters: The U.S. Survey on the Web* (George Mason University)  
Designed for high school and college teachers and students, *History Matters* serves as a gateway to web resources and offers other useful materials for teaching U.S. history. <http://www.historymatters.gmu.edu>

*ED Sitement: The Best of the Humanities on the Web* (National Endowment for the Humanities & the Marco Polo Foundation)  
<http://edsitement.neh.gov>

### ***OTHER RESOURCES***

Carlson, Judy. *Great Lives: Harriet Tubman, Call to Freedom*. NY: Ballantine Books, 1988. \* Teacher's Guide

Carson, Mary Kay. *The Underground Railroad for Kids: from Slavery to Freedom* (includes 21 activities). Chicago: Review Press, c 2005.

Lawrence, Jacob. *Harriet and the Promised Land*. (Video) Thursday Recordings for Spoken Arts. (Also a paperback by Aladdin.)

Petry, Ann. Harriet Tubman: *Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. Prince Frederick, MD: Recorded Books, c 1999. ( 5 audio cassettes (6.5 hrs.) : analog.

Harriet Tubman House, Auburn, NY

## **Historical Overview**

Attempts to escape from bondage, and to abolish slavery, date back to the founding of the United States. These efforts began to solidify as an organized movement of African Americans and their white supporters during the 1820s. By the 1840s, the Underground Railroad emerged as both a political movement that protested slavery and as a covert strategy for assisting those escaping to freedom.

Many pivotal members of the Underground Railroad Movement were African Americans who had personally experienced the injustice and brutality of enslavement. Their white supporters were often motivated by liberal religious and social beliefs. Despite these crucial differences, the Abolitionist and Underground Railroad movements brought black and white Americans together in a common cause—for the first time in our nation's history.

## **How the Underground Railroad Worked**

The Underground Railroad was a secret network of people, both black and white, who assisted those escaping slavery by providing money, food, clothing, temporary shelter, and transportation. By the mid-1800s this clandestine operation extended throughout the country. Participants in the movement used the language of the railroad to ensure secrecy—and their safety. The escape routes were called “lines,” safe houses were “stations,” those who assisted the slaves were “conductors,” and fugitives were identified as “freight.”

## **The Underground Railroad in Greater Niagara**

Upstate New York became a hotbed of Underground Railroad activity, as escaping slaves made their way to crossing points along the Niagara River with the help of local “conductors.” In Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and Lewiston, the river narrows to less than a half-mile journey to the shores of Canada. Southeastern Canada had been a safe haven for fugitive slaves since 1793, when the governor of Ontario signed an Anti-Slavery Act. In Canada, escapees believed they would be safe from the oppressive laws of the United States and from bounty hunters, who would not dare cross the international border.

It was more than upstate New York's proximity to Canada that contributed to its importance in the Underground Railroad movement. Progressive political and social movements flourished in many regions of New York State. Organized opposition to slavery began in 1799, and a state law banning slavery was passed on July 4, 1827. Records show that there were 274 anti-slavery societies in New York State, many of them active in the cities, towns, and villages of Erie and Niagara counties.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH BOOKS**

Adler, David. *A Picture Book of Harriet Tubman*. New York: Scholastic, 1992.

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Steal Away*. New York: Orchard Books, 1992.

Ayres, Katherine. *North by Night*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1998.

Bains, Rea. *The Road to Freedom*. NJ: Troll Assoc., 1982.

Benjamin, Anne. *Young Harriet Tubman: Freedom Fighter*. NJ: Troll Assoc., 1992.

Bently, Judith. *Harriet Tubman: An Impact Biography*. NY, NY: Franklin Watts, 1990.

Brill, Marlene Targ. *Allen Jay and the Underground Railroad*. Minnesota: Carolrhoda Books, c1993.

Bial, Rayond. *The Underground Railroad*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1995.

Carbone, Elisa. *Stealing Freedom*. NY: Knopf, 1998.

Carlson, Judy. *Harriet Tubman: Call to Freedom*. NY: Fawcette Columbine, 1989.

Carter, Polly. *Harriet Tubman and Black History Month*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Silver Press, 1990.

Clark, Margaret Goff. *Freedom Crossing*. NY: Scholastic, Inc., c1980.

Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Barefoot: Escape on the Underground Railroad*. New York: Harper Collins, 1997.

Ferris, Jeri. *Go Free or Die, A Story About Harriet Tubman*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1988.

Ferris, Jeri. *Walking the Road to Freedom: A Story about Sojourner Truth*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc., c.1988.

Freedman, Florence B. *Two Tickets to Freedom: The True Story of Ellen and William Craft, Fugitive Slaves*. NY: Simon and Schuster, 1971.

Gayle, Sharon Shavers. *Escape! A Story of the Underground Railroad*. Norwalk, CT: Soundprints, c1999.

Gresko, Marcia. *Harriet Tubman*. Huntington Beach: Teacher Created Materials Inc., 1997.

Hamilton, Virginia. *Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom*. New York: Knopf, 1993.

Haskins, Jim. *Get On Board: The Story of the UGRR*. New York: Scholastic, 1993.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. New York: Knopf, 1993.

Humphreville, Frances. *Harriet Tubman, Flame of Freedom*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1967.

Johnson, Dolores. *Now Let Me Fly: The Story of A Slave Family*. NY: Macmillan, 1993.

Jurmain, Suzanne. *Freedom's Sons: The True Story of the Amistad Mutiny*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1968.

Kelton, Nancy. *Rebel Slave*. Milwaukee: Raintree Publishers, 1977.

Lasky, Kathryn. *True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad*. NY: Scholastic, c1996.

Lawrence, Jacob. *Harriet and the Promised Land*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1968.

Lester, Julius. *From Slave Ship to Freedom Road*. New York: Dial Books, c 1998.

Levine, Ellen. *If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad*. NY: Scholastic, 1988.

Loesch, Joe and Cheryl J. Hutchinson, (Editor) *The Underground Railroad Featuring Harriet Tubman: With Buffalo Biff and Farley's Raiders (Backyard Adventures/Time Travelers Series, 5)*. NY: Toy Box Productions, 2003.

Lyons, Mary E. *Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs*. New York: Scribner's, c 1992.

McCurdy, Michael, ed. *Escape from Slavery: The Boyhood of Frederick Douglass in his own Words*. NY: Knopf, c1994.

McGovern, Anne. *Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman*. New York: Scholastic, 1965.

McKissack, Patricia. *A Picture of Freedom*. NY: Scholastic, 1997.

McLoone, Margo. *Harriet Tubman: A Photo Illustrated Biography*. Mankato: Bridgestone Press, 1997.

McLoone, Margo. *Sojourner Truth: A Photo Illustrated Biography*. Mankato: Bridgestone Press, 1997.

McMullan, Kate. *Conductor of the Underground Railroad: The Story of Harriet Tubman*. New York: Dell Publishing, 1991.

Meyer, Linda D. *They Called Me Moses: Harriet Tubman*. New York: Dell Publishing, 1988.

Monjo, F.N.. *The Drinking Gourd*. USA: Harper Collins, 1993.

Moore, Kay. *...If You Lived at The Time of the Civil War*. NY: Scholastic, 1994.

Olenyik, Barbara. **A Good Night for Freedom**. NY: Holiday House, 2003.

Petry, Ann. **Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad**. New York: Harper Trophy, 1996.  
(See other resources also.)

Petry, Ann. **Harriet Tubman: Conductor on The Underground Railroad**. New York: Pocket Books, Division of Simon & Schuster, 1971.

Ransom, Candice. **Liberty Street**. NY: Walker & Company, 2003.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Escape from Slavery: Five Journeys to Freedom**. NY: Harper Collins, c1991.

Riggio, Anita. **Secret Signs: Along the Underground Railroad**. PA: Boyd Mills Press, 1997.

Ringgold, Faith. **Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky**. NY: Crown Publishers, 1992.

Smucker, Barbara. **Runaway to Freedom**. NY: Harper & Row, c1977.

Stein, R. Conrad. **Cornerstone of Freedom: The Story of the Underground Railroad**.  
Chicago: Children's Press, 1981.

Sterling, Dorothy. **Freedom Train**. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 1954.

Taylor, M.W. **Black Americans of Achievement Harriet Tubman Antislavery Activist**. New York: Chelsea House, 1991.

Tilley-Turner, Glennette. **Running for Our Lives**. New York: Holiday House, c 1994.

Whelan, Gloria. **Friend on Freedom River**. MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2004.

Winter, Jeanette. **Follow the Drinking Gourd**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.,  
1988.

Wright, Courtni C. and Gershom Griffith. **Journey to Freedom: A Story of the Underground Railroad**. New York: Holiday House, 1994.

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. **Message in the Sky**. NY: Scholastics, 2003.

### **OTHER RESOURCES**

Abraham, Philip. **Harriet Tubman**. Children's Press, p.24, c.2002.

Carlson, Judy. **Great Lives: Harriet Tubman, Call to Freedom**. NY: Ballantine Books, 1988.  
**Teacher's Guide**

Carson, Mary Kay. *The Underground Railroad for Kids: from Slavery to Freedom* (includes 21 activities). Chicago: Review Press, c 2005.

Klingel, Cynthia F. *Harriet Tubman: Abolitionist and Underground Railroad Conductor*. Child's World, p.32, c. 2004.

Lawrence, Jacob. *Harriet and the Promised Land*. (Video recording) Thursday Recordings for Spoken Arts. (Also a paperback by Aladdin.)

**"Light A candle in the Window"**- UGRR related songs (CD)

Petry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. Prince Frederick, MD: Recorded Books, c 1999. (5 audio cassettes (6.5 hrs.): analog.

Williams, Carla. *The Underground Railroad*. Child's World, p.40, c. 2002.

### **ADULT BOOKS**

Anquandah, Kwesi J. *Castles and Forts of Ghana*. Atalante, Ghana: Ghana Museums and Monuments Board.

Ball, Edward. *Slaves in the Family*. Thorndike, ME: G. K. Hall, 1999, c1998.

Blockson, Charles. *Underground Railroad*. NY: Prentice Hall Press. Division of Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Bok, Francis. *Escape From Slavery*. NY: St. Martin's Press, c2003.

Bontemps, Arna. *Great Slave Narratives*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1969.

Bradford, Sarah. *Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her People*. Bedford, MA: Applewood Books, 1993.

Bradford, Sarah. *The Moses of Her People: Harriet Tubman*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1981

Butler, Nancy & Power, Michael. *Slavery and Freedom in Niagara*. Ontario: The Niagara Historical Society, 1993.

Clinton, Catherine. *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom*. NY: Little Brown & Co., 2004.

Franklin, John Hope. *In Search of the Promised Land: A Black Family and the Old South*. NY: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Franklin, John Hope. *Mirror to America: The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin*. NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2005..

Gates, Henry Lewis, Jr., *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience*. NY: Basic Civitas Books, 1999.

- Gayla, Sharon. *Harriet Tubman and The Freedom Train*. NY: Aladdin Paperbacks, 2002.
- Hartman, Saidiya. *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007.
- Hine, Darlene Clark. *The African-American Odyssey*. NY: Prentice Hall, 2002.
- Jacobs, Harriet and Myrlie Evers-Williams. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Signet Classics, 2000.
- Kallen, Stuart A. *Life on the URR*. NY: Greenhaven Press, 2000.
- McGovern, Ann. *Wanted Dead or Alive: The True Story of Harriet Tubman*. NY: Rebound by Sagebrush, 1999.
- Pettit, Eber M. *Sketches in the History of the Underground Railroad*. Chautauqua Region Press, 1999.
- Rennert, Richard, ed. *Shapers of America: Profiles of Great Black Americans (Harriet Tubman)* Chelsea House Publishers, 1992.
- Siebert, Wilbur H. *The Underground Railroad: From Slavery to Freedom*. London: MacMillan, 1899.
- Still, William. *Underground Railroad: A Record of Facts, Authentic Narratives, Letters, Sc.* Chicago: Johnson Publishing Company, 1970.
- Thomas, Owen A. *Niagara's Freedom Trail: A Guide to African-Canadian History on the Niagara Peninsula*. NY: Region Niagara Tourist Council, 1995.
- Washington, Booker T. *Up From Slavery*. Robinson Books, 2002.
- Wheatley, Phyllis, edited with an introduction by Julian D. Mason, Jr. *The Poems of Phyllis Wheatley*. University of North Carolina Press, 1989.
- Walls, Bryan E. *The Road That Led to Somewhere*. Ontario, Canada: Olive Publishing Company, Ltd., 1980.
- Wray, John. *Canaan's Tongue*. NY, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

*Escape From Slavery: Underground Railroad.* National Geographic, July 1984, pp.3-39.

Fradin, Dennis B.. *Bound for the North Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves.* Clarion Books, p.206, c. 2000.

Harriet Tubman House, Auburn, NY

*The Journey from Slavery to Emancipation Through Song* (Book & CD )

Kostoff, Robert. *A History of Niagara Co., NY.* Vol. 3, pp. 63-64, 67, 98-99, 129.

Laurie, Margaret S. *Lewiston: Crown jewel of the Niagara.* pp. 78-87, 176, 179, 183.

Smyczynski, Christie A. "Underground Railroad," *An Explorers Guide: Western, NY.* pp. 20, 42, 47, 54, 61, 188, 231-232, 276, 413, 432, 441-42, 472.

## **Web Sites**

*Harriet Tubman & the Underground Railroad*

*The Underground Railroad*

[www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/railroad)

*The Friends of Freedom Society- Ohio Underground Railroad Association*

<http://Ohioundergroundrailroad.org>

Maps- Ex. Slavery in the US (1775-1865)

*Voices from the Days of Slavery* (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/voices/>

*Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers Project* (Library of Congress )

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

*African-American Women, Online Archival Collections* (Duke University)

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/collections/african-american-women.html>

*African American Sheet Music, 1820-1920* (Brown University)

<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/sheetmusic/afam/index.html>

*African American Newspapers: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century*(Accessible Archives)\*subscription only <http://www.accessible.com/default.htm>

## **Additional Web Sites**

***Geography of Slavery in Virginia*** (University of Virginia)  
<http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/>

Census Database in ***Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War*** (University of Virginia)  
<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu>

***Slavery and the Making of America*** (Thirteen/WNET New York)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/slavery/>

***Slavery in New York*** (New York Historical Society)  
<http://www.slaveryinnewyork.org/>

### **Gateways:**

***History Matters: The U.S. Survey on the Web*** (George Mason University)  
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu>

***ED Sitement: The Best of the Humanities on the Web*** (National Endowment for the Humanities & the Marco Polo Foundation)  
<http://edsitement.neh.gov>