

# The Underground Railroad



**THE CIVIL WAR**  
museum  
UPPER MIDDLE WEST EXPERIENCE

# The Underground Railroad

The Civil War Museum has put together this kit to help teach difficult history. The Civil War Museum's educators searched for the best suited primary and secondary sources to discuss the Underground Railroad. This kit is broken into two sections: 1) background information for the educator to help build a better understanding of what they are teaching and 2) resources for student driven exploration of primary sources, including essential questions, context and extensions.

Our hope is that this kit helps provide your classroom with authentic and accurate information on slavery and the Underground Railroad.

## Goals:

- Facilitators of this kit will be able to teach the Underground Railroad accurately, and correct misconceptions about those who participated in it.
- Students using this kit will learn to read primary sources critically and develop arguments based on what they read.
- This kit will be used to enhance classroom lessons.

**Warning:** This kit features primary sources from the Civil War era, and contains language that might be offensive to some.

## Items in Kit:

### Student Activities (context, key passages, essential questions):

- Caroline Quarrls information - her story, transcriptions of the letters to Lyman Goodnow, transcriptions of Alan Watkins letter, and map of her journey
- Reward poster
- Copy of Charles Broaddus estate sale

### Background Information for Facilitator:

- Enslaved and Seceding States Statistics (from Myth of the Lost Cause)
- Slavery: Cause and Catalyst of the Civil War (PDF link from the National Park Service below)  
<https://www.nps.gov/shil/learn/historyculture/upload/slavery-brochure.pdf>
- Map of 1860s America Slavery and the Civil War (information sheet from the National Park Service)  
[https://www.nps.gov/liho/planyourvisit/upload/cw\\_slavery\\_site\\_bulletin.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/liho/planyourvisit/upload/cw_slavery_site_bulletin.pdf)
- Copies of exhibit labels from The Fiery Trial at The Civil War Museum
- Joshua Glover's story <https://pbswisconsineducation.org/biographies/glover.html>

# Map of the United States in 1861



# Caroline Quarlls

## Summary:

Caroline Quarlls was an enslaved young woman from Saint Louis. In 1842, at 16 years old, Quarlls ran away from Saint Louis, and traveled by boat and stagecoach to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In Milwaukee, Quarlls was introduced to abolitionists, including Lyman Goodnow, who helped her escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Around 40 years later, Goodnow was writing a book on the History of Waukesha and sent a letter to Caroline Quarlls at the last place he saw her, Sandwich, Ontario. Caroline was still there and wrote back to him. The Civil War Museum has two of Caroline's letters to Goodnow, and one from her husband, Alan Watkins, also a former enslaved person.

## Source:

<http://www.burlingtonhistory.org/caroline-quarlls-first-underground-railroad-passenger-wisconsin>

## Key Passages:

### From Caroline:

*I got a box out of my slave owners store room and hid it in a cherry hedge. I left the 4th of July. My slave owners folks treated [me] well enough for a Slave. Yes i have been whipped. Yes i had to do the house work, for i was kept for that purpose. I told my gran Mother that I was going to canada but I was so young that she did not pay any attention to me, not any of the rest of them.*

### From Alan Watkins:

*Mr. goodnaw, allow me to present My self to you- Mr. Watkins, excuse me for taking some liberties, but according to your request and my wishes, i shall endeavor to give you a short narrative of my life as far as i can remember, and believe me, as a stranger, that you cannot imagine how much pleasure it affords me to be able to answer a few [questions] for a friend who has been such a deliverer to the poor fugitive slaves who was oppresses in the bitter pangs of slavery, and may the lord ever Bless you a peace reign in your household and in my prayer.*

...

*I stole a boat and manage[d] to get across the Ohio river that night. after i crossed i went and stopped in Mud creek bridge. the bridge has 2 storys and my pursuers passed right under me as i was lying on the top part and could hear every word they said. they went straight up to Cincinnati expecting we was up ther but it so happen that we did not go. we went up the hill into a field and stopped there one week. during the week we got in with abolitioner friends and they brought us 60 miles. we traveled by foot, shuning all towns and villages, until we got to pickle town [Pickrelltown] and from there we got with friends again who carried us to Sandusky city and thank god for our Sandusy City.*

## Essential Questions and Extensions for Students:

1. After reading Caroline's story and her letters, in your opinion, what was the hardest part of her journey?
2. Why is Caroline's story so unique and important to Wisconsin history?
3. Why is the Alan Watkins letter important for historians?
4. Have students map out Caroline's route and Alan Watkins's route as best they can. Compare and contrast their journeys.
5. Have students create a newspaper article based on Caroline or Alan's life.
6. Have students create a museum label for the letter collection.

## CAROLINE QUARLLS

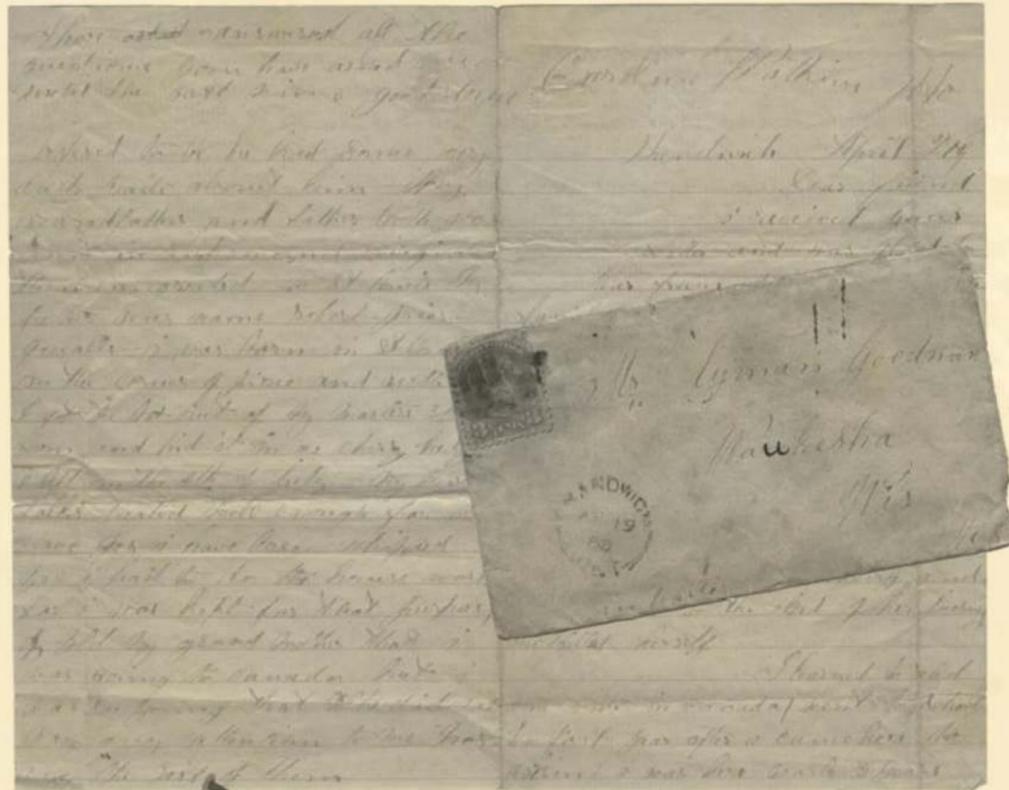
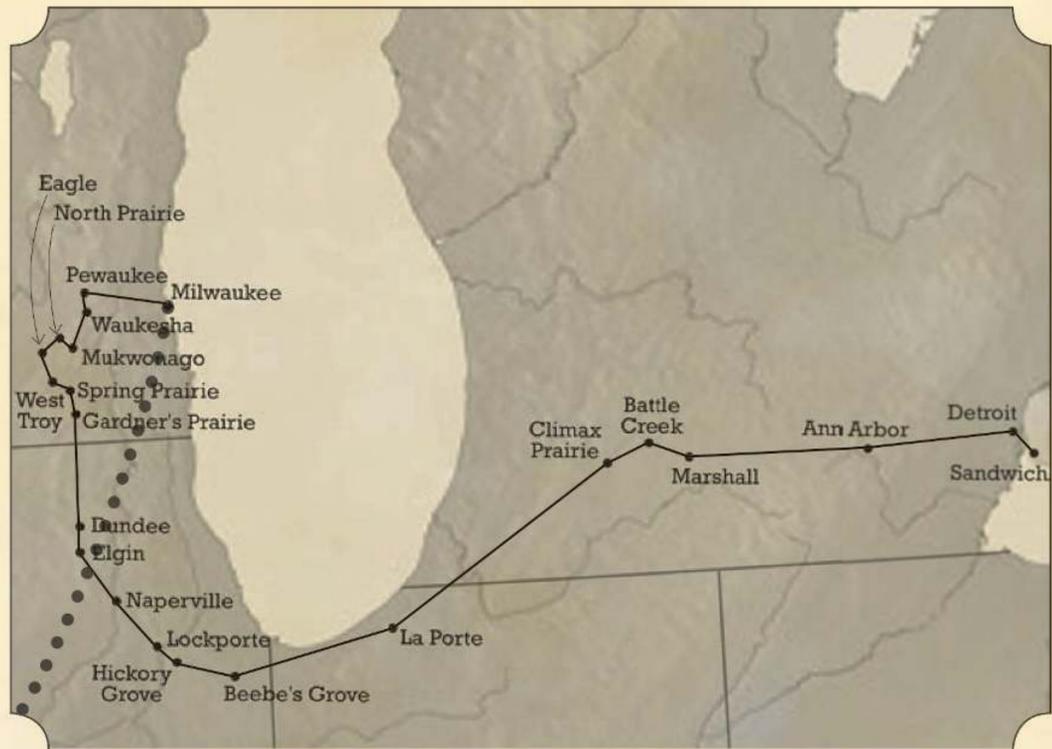
Caroline Quarlls is one of the most celebrated travelers on the Underground Railroad. She is the first known fugitive slave conducted through the Wisconsin network to freedom, and left a unique record of her life afterwards in Canada.



Quarlls was 16 when she fled her master's home in St. Louis on July 4, 1842. She traveled by steamboat to Alton, Illinois, and by stagecoach to Milwaukee. Pursued by agents of her owner, she was hidden by abolitionists in Milwaukee, Pewaukee, Waukesha, Spring Prairie, and Burlington.

In early September, Lyman Goodnow of Waukesha agreed to take her to Chicago, across Indiana, and to Detroit. She crossed to freedom in Canada and was left in the custody of a missionary.

Thirty-eight years later, Goodnow sent a letter inquiring after Quarlls. He was surprised when she wrote back. She had learned to read and write, married runaway slave Allen Watkins, and lived near Sandwich (modern Windsor), across from Detroit. "Pen and ink could hardly express my joy when I heard from you once more," Quarlls wrote. "I am living and have to work very hard but I have never forgotten you nor your kindness..."



## CAROLINE'S FIRST LETTER TO LYMAN GOODNOW\*

1880

Sandwich April 17th

Dearest friend, pen and ink could hardly express my joy when i heard from you once more.

I am living and have to work very hard, but i have never forgotten you nor your kindness. i am still in Sandwich, the same place where you left me.

Just as soon as the postmaster read the name to me, your name, my heart was filled with joy and gladness and i should like to see you once more before I die to return you thanks for your kindness towards me.

I would like for you to send me one of those books that you was speaking about.

Dearest friend, you don't know how rejoiced i feel since i heard from you. Answer this as soon as you get it and let me know how you are and your address. Direct your letter to Caroline Watkins, Sandwich Ont Ca 98.

i hope you will send me one of those books you spoke of to the post master.

## CAROLINE'S SECOND LETTER TO LYMAN GOODNOW\*

Caroline Watkins  
1880  
Sandwich April 27

Dear friend,

i received your letter and was glad to hear from you and your family and that you was well and doing well. it leaves me in not very good health. I did mary a man on Col. prince's farm by name of Watkins, but he was considerable elder that I was and had children by his first wife as old as i was, but she was sold from her children in slavery and before she got to the end of her journey she killed herself.

I learned to read and write in canada. went to school the first year after i came here. to askin, i was here nearly 3 years before i was married. my husband's occupation is a cook. I get a pretty good living but by working pretty hard for it, but i am not very happy. I have heard from St louis several times since i came, by my cousin who served her time out and got free and came here. my old mistress is dead and my master is married again. that is charles r hall.

I knew about me having property left me before i came away. perhaps if i had of stayed until i became of age i could have got it and perhaps not. there was not but only 2 of us. i had one sister but she died before I came away. I have forgotten how long i was going from alton to milwaukee by stage.

Mr pots was the name of the minister that my master and his wife went to and they were Presbyterians.

my husband was once a slave, born in richmond virginia, belonged to a man by the name of William Watkins. after he died he fell heir to a widow in kentucky by the name of Nancy cleveland and remaind there until he came to canada.

I have six children, 3 boys and 3 girl[s]. 3 married and 3 single. the youngest is 16, a boy. my oldest boy is a farmer and my other boy is in cinanati. my youngest girl, 18, is at home. i am trying to educate her for a school teacher only she had quite a impediment in her speech. they have all very good educations.

mr askell is dead. he moved away from here the second year after i came here. he was not the man as professed to be. he had some very dark traits about him.

My grandfather and father both was born in richmond virginia, then emigrated to st louis. my father was name[d] robert prior quarlls. i was born in st louis on the corner of pine and sixth str.

I got the box out of my Masters store room and hid it in a cherry hedge. i left in the 4th of July. My masters folks treated [me] well enough for a Slave. Yes i have been whipped. yes i had to do the house work, for i was kept for that purpose. I told my grand Mother that I was going to canada but I was so young that she did not pay any attention to me, nor any of the rest of them.

I have answered all the questions you have asked me. until the next time, good bye.

## CAROLINE'S HUSBAND'S LETTER TO LYMAN GOODNOW\*

1880  
Sandwich April 24

Mr. goodnaw, allow me to present My self to you – Mr. Watkins. excuse me for taking these liberties, but according to your request and my wishes, i shall endeavor to give you a short narrative of my life as far as i can remember, and believe me, as a stranger, that you cannot imagine how much pleasure it affords me to be able to answer a few [questions] for a friend who has been such a deliverer to the poor fugitive slaves who was oppressed in the bitter pangs of slavery, and may the lord ever Bless you and peace reighn in your household and in my prayer.

I was born in richmond, virginia [and] raised in kentucky. the first thing that started me from slavery, i married and had 3 children and they sold my wife. after the[y] sold her i became so much dissatisfied. going to church one Sunday the minister told me that i was sold also. his name was Nathan riggs, a baptist minister. i then resolved to go away that night.

I stole a boat and manage[d] to get across the Ohio river that night. after i crossed i went and stopped in Mud creek bridge. the bridge has 2 storys and my pursuers passed right under me as i was lying on the top part and could hear every word they said. they went straight up to Cincinati expecting we was up there but it so happen that we did not go. we went up the hill into a field and stopped there one week. during the week we got in with abolitioner friends and they brought us 60 miles. we traveled on foot, shuning all towns and villages, until we got to pickle town [Pickrelltown] and from there we got with friends again who carried us to Sandusky city and thank god for our Sandusky City.

our good friends put us on a boat and took me clean through to detroit and from there to canada and i am able to say that i had no trouble getting to canada, not as my wife had, and i will always be ready and willing to speak a good word for those glorious abolitioners.

No more at present. i should [be] very much pleased to hear from you at any time and if any of your family ever comes here i should be happy to have you call as i own my house where i live. i remain yours, well wishes,

Allen Watkins

I hope if you get that paper printed you will send us some. write often as you can if you please.

\* Note: Punctuation added to all letters.

# Cotton



*Note: This photo is from after slavery ended, however these are sharecroppers who were often former enslaved people or their families working the same sorts of job for little money.*

## **Summary:**

Often times when we are taught about slavery, we are taught that enslaved people only worked in cotton fields. This is not true. While a lot of enslaved people did work on cash crop plantations, there were others who were domestic workers, cooks, porters, foundry workers and blacksmiths. While thinking about the Underground Railroad, those who liberated themselves from slavery in border states were more likely to get to Canada successfully because of their geographic location. Cotton plantations were in the Deep South making it was less likely that successful freedom seekers came from cotton plantations.

Leading up to the Civil War cotton played a large part of the American economy. On the eve of the Civil War raw cotton constituted 61% of the value of all United States' exports. The cotton growing areas of the country produced two-thirds of the world's cotton supply. Cotton was used to make clothing, bedding, curtains, etc. It was grown in the South then was sent to the North to be processed and manufactured in factories. The South's weather was a perfect climate for cotton to grow and be successful. The cotton plant grows to be about knee length, producing roughly 100 bolls of cotton. Bolls of cotton are the open white fibrous part of the plant; each boll can contain up to 50,000 fibers of cotton.

With the boom of cotton and the widespread appeal of it in the growing area along southern states, a workforce was needed to help in the fields. To solve this problem southern cotton growers relied on enslaved people to labor in the fields. These enslaved people were owned by their slave holders and were treated like property rather than people. One of the many jobs enslaved people were forced to work was in the cotton fields.

With the increase in the demand of cotton, the increase for slave labor also increased. On average an enslaved person who worked in the cotton fields would pick between 100-150 lbs of cotton per day during harvesting. The picked cotton was put in large baskets where it would be weighed, then taken to be cleaned. Before the cotton gin's invention in 1793, cotton was cleaned by hand by enslaved people, in particular children and women, which was a tedious process. During non-harvesting time, the work continued as they had to ensure the plants were cared for and ready when the time came for it to be picked.

Enslaved people had to work long hours and 6 to 7 days a week, with no pay. Enslaved people had rules they had to follow, especially when it came to work, or they were punished by their slaveholder or one of their field overseers. Punishments could include whipping, having to wear a slave collar or chains, or having their family sold away from them. Based on the lack of freedoms and severity of punishments, some enslaved people tried to escape; while we will never know how many attempted to runaway and how many were successful, we do know that most who ran away were caught or returned to their plantations or slaveholder's home.

### **Essential Questions for Students:**

1. How did cotton change the US leading up to the Civil War?
2. What was Lincoln's stance on expanding slavery? How does it relate to the cotton industry of that time?
3. Examine the photo, what observations can you make? Who is the person in the middle and what is his role?
4. Was the South the only part of the country that benefited from enslaved labor in the cotton fields?
5. Why would it be harder for an enslaved person on a cotton plantation to liberate themselves from slavery on the Underground Railroad than for someone from a border state?

# Reward Poster

## Summary:

Throughout the practice of slavery, enslaved people were mistreated, abused and forced into labor. Enslaved people had few options to get out of work. One was to try to run away or escape from their life as a slave. Northern states did not allow slavery, but because of the Fugitive Slave Acts, runaways in these states could be captured and returned to slavery. The Fugitive Slave Acts were congressional statutes passed in 1793 and 1850 that permitted the seizure and return of runaway slaves who escaped from one state and fled into another. The Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 strengthened the earlier law by requiring agents of the Federal Government to actively pursue, capture, and return freedom seekers to their owners. The act dictated that fugitive slaves were neither allowed to testify on their own behalf, nor were they allowed to have a trial by jury. It also levied severe penalties and fines against people who helped the freedom seekers or who did not actively enforce the new law. Because of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, the Underground Railroad expanded to help create a safe way for enslaved people to escape to freedom in Canada, the only place they could really be free.

If a freedom seeker escaped, their slave owners tried to find them by hiring slave catchers, who roamed the paths most likely to be taken by those escaping slavery from the South. Places like the Ohio River, or ports, would be popular locations for slave catchers. Slave catchers were given money once they captured the escaped person, so they often did whatever it took to get them, including putting up posters around the town where they thought the escaped enslaved person might be living or hiding.

## Essential Questions for Students:

1. How does this reflect the turmoil time leading up to the Civil War?
2. Why were slave owners desperate to get their enslaved person back?

## Extensions:

- Listen to Joshua Glover's Story at Wisconsin Biographies. Have students discuss how the Fugitive Slave Act impacted Joshua Glover's life.
  - <https://pbswisconsineducation.org/biographies/glover.html>
- Have students write a newspaper article on the Fugitive Slave Act from a Northern perspective.

# \$200 Reward.

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RANAWAY from the subscriber, on the night of Thursday, the 30th of September.

## FIVE NEGRO SLAVES,

**To-wit: one Negro man, his wife, and three children.**

The man is a black Negro, full height, very erect, his face a little thin. He is about forty years of age and calls himself *Washington Reed*, and is known by the name of Washington. He is probably well dressed, possibly takes with him an ivory headed cane, and is of good address. Several of his teeth are gone.

*Mary*, his wife, is about thirty years of age, a bright mulatto woman, and quite stout and strong. The oldest of the children is a boy, of the name FIELDING, twelve years of age, a dark mulatto, with heavy eyelids. He probably wore a new cloth cap.

MATILDA, the second child, is a girl, six years of age, rather a dark mulatto, but a bright and smart looking child.

MALCOLM, the youngest, is a boy, four years old, a lighter mulatto than the last, and about equally as bright. He probably also wore a cloth cap. If examined, he will be found to have a swelling at the navel. Washington and Mary have lived at or near St. Louis, with the subscriber, for about 15 years.

It is supposed that they are making their way to Chicago, and that a white man accompanies them, that they will travel chiefly at night, and most probably in a covered wagon.

A reward of \$150 will be paid for their apprehension, so that I can get them, if taken within one hundred miles of St. Louis, and \$200 if taken beyond that, and secured so that I can get them, and other reasonable additional charges, if delivered to the subscriber, or to THOMAS ALLEN, Esq., at St. Louis, Mo. The above negroes, for the last few years, have been in possession of Thomas Allen, Esq., of St. Louis.

**WM. RUSSELL.**

# Charles Broaddus Estate Sale

## Summary:

Because of how valuable enslaved people were to those that owned them, often times when a slave owner died, the enslaved people they owned were willed to their relatives. Enslaved people were considered property, and often the type of work they did determined their monetary value. Young men who were in good health were worth a lot of money because of the labor they were able to perform; domestic slaves were also worth money because they were able to maintain a house. These higher costs would be seen at slave auctions, but as well as estate sales.

Enslaved people could be sold off at their slave owner's choosing. This meant that they could be torn apart from their family and friends. This happened during slave auctions, as well as when a slave owner died and did not leave their enslaved people to any family member. The Charles Broaddus Estate Sale is a document which shows enslaved people for sale and their assigned value. This assigned value also shows why slave owners were willing to hire slave catchers to find runaway or escaped enslaved people.

## Essential Questions for Students:

1. Why would a slave owner ascribe different values to the different enslaved people?
2. What does this estate sale document tell about American history leading up to the Civil War?
3. How does this estate ledger back up the claim that slavery was the cause of the Civil War?

## Extensions:

- Have students research enslaved people that made it to freedom in Canada or other parts of the North.
  - Some ideas for people to research could include: Harriet Tubman, John Parker, Joshua Glover, and Robert Smalls.
  - [enslaved.org](https://www.enslaved.org) is a database that can also be used to help with this research.

Sale Bill of the Estate of John Broadous, Dec<sup>d</sup>, to wit:  
 One tract of Land \$2265.00  
 One old Negro Woman Rose, not sold to buyers,  
 One Man Anthony Thomas Broadous 200.00  
 Ditto Gabriel Eleanor Land 150.00  
 Ditto Woman Winney & Child Phil C. A. Shaw King 371.00  
 Ditto Man Jerry Squire Turner 1005.00  
 Ditto Woman Rachel & 2 Children  
 named Edmund & Martha Fountain Land 1082.50  
 Ditto Man Robert Thomas Broadous 1300.00  
 Ditto Man Charles Squire Turner 1099.00  
 Ditto Boy Bob William Biggerstaff 996.00  
 Ditto Girl America Archibald Brooker 815.00  
 Ditto Young Woman Rose & Child Francis H. Reid 913.50  
 Boy Ben John A. Grimes, Jr. 850.00  
 Ditto Boy Sam McLean Brown 505.00  
 Ditto Girl Mary Irvine Green 407.00  
 One Cupboard Edmund Baxter 13.25  
 One Bureau James Howard 7.50  
 One Desk Peter Duncan 4.00  
 Bible in four Volumes Thomas Fowler 8.00  
 Bed & Bedstead Austin Cosby 9.75  
 Bed Archibald Lamb 11.75  
 Bedstead Tho. Howard 1.37 1/2  
 Dining Table Christopher Knapp 6.25  
 One Looking glass Wm. Perkins 1.62 1/2  
 Six Chairs William Hill 2.00  
 Signed, James Barnard adm<sup>r</sup>  
 December, 26. 1840. of John Broadous, Dec<sup>d</sup>.

State of Kentucky, Madison County, Feb,  
 At a County Court held for Madison County on  
 Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1841, this Sale Bill  
 of the Estate of John Broadous, Deceased, was returned  
 and ordered to be recorded in the records. And the same  
 has been done accordingly.  
 Attest, David Irvine, C. C.  
 By Tho. A. Barnes, J. C.

## Sale Bill of the Estate of John Broaddus, Dec'd, to wit.

One track of land		\$2205.00
One old Negro woman Rose		not sold, no bidders
One Man	Anthony Thomas Broaddus	\$200.00
Ditto Gabriel	Elenor Sand	\$150.00
Ditto Woman Alinney & Child Phil	CA Adam King	\$371.00
Ditto Man	Squire Turner	\$1005.00
Ditto Woman Rachel & 2 Children named Edmund and Martha	Fountain Sand	\$1082.00
Ditto Man Robert	Thomas Broaddus	\$1300.00
Ditto Man Charles	Squire Turner	\$1099.00
Ditto Boy Joe	William Biggerstaff	\$996.00
Ditto Girl America	Archibald Brooks	\$815.00
Ditto Young Woman Rose & Child	Francis F. Reid	\$913.50
Boy Ben	John H. Gremis, Jr.	\$850.00
Ditto Boy Sam	Moreau Brown	\$505.00
Ditto Girl	Mary Irvine Green	\$407.00
One Cupboard	Edmund Masters	\$13.25
One Bureau	James Howard	\$7.50
One Desk	Peter Duncan	\$4.00
Bible in Four Volumes	Thomas Fowler	\$8.00

Bed & Bed Stead	Austin Cosby	\$9.75
Bed	Archibald Sanhame	\$11.75
Bed Steads	Thomas Howard	\$0.37
Dining Table	Christopher Kaustzay	\$6.25
One Looking Glass	Wm Perkins	\$0.62
Six Chairs	William Hill	\$2.00

Signed James Pegarnate

December 26, 1840 of John Broaddus, Dec'd

State of Kentucky, Madison County

At a County Court held for Madison County on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1841. This Sale Bill of the Estate of John Broaddus, Deceased, was returned and ordered to be entered of record. And the same has been done accordingly.

# Seceding Slave States, Slave Populations, and Ownership

<b>Seceding States</b>	<b>Number of Slaves and slaves' percent of state population 1860</b>	<b>Percent Slaveholding Families 1860</b>
South Carolina	402,406 slaves, 57%	46%
Mississippi	436,631 slaves, 55%	49%
Florida	61,745 slaves, 44%	34%
Alabama	435,080 slaves, 45%	35%
Georgia	462,198 slaves, 44%	37%
Louisiana	331,726 slaves, 47%	29%
Texas	182,566 slaves, 30%	28%
Virginia	490,865 slaves, 31%	37%
Arkansas	111,115 slaves, 26%	20%
Tennessee	275,719 slaves, 25%	25%
North Carolina	331,059 slaves, 33%	28%
All seceding states	3,521,110 slaves, 39%	31%

# Supplemental Resources: The Fiery Trial Exhibit Labels

135,000 SETS 270,000 VOLUMES SOLD

## UNCLE TOM'S CABIN



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### The Greatest Book of the Age.

#### UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

One of the most powerful voices against slavery in the decade before the Civil War was a small novel called *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, by abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe. It dramatized the harsh reality of human enslavement by telling the story of a slave called Uncle Tom.

It was the best-selling novel of the 19th Century, and is credited with

aiding the abolitionist cause. The book, however, also helped create stereotypes about African-Americans, and these negative associations now overshadow the book's historical impact.

When Abraham Lincoln first met Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1862, he said, "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war."

# THE WESTERN INDEPENDENT



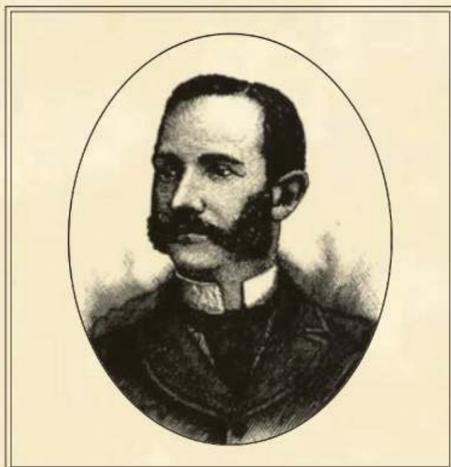
VOL. IV

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE UPPER MIDDLE WEST

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## THE JOSHUA GLOVER CASE

The case of fugitive slave Joshua Glover made national headlines. A Missouri slave, Glover fled to Wisconsin in 1854. His owner, using the Fugitive Slave Law, had him arrested and placed in the Milwaukee County jail. Waukesha editor Sherman Booth and other abolitionists surrounded the jail, broke down a door, and got Glover safely to Canada.



Booth was arrested for breaking the Fugitive Slave Law. He was freed on appeal by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which held that federal law could not override state law. Booth was rearrested and freed several more times before he was finally pardoned, in March of 1861, by President James Buchanan.

### ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### Sewing Machines!

JOHN BENEDICT, OF KENOSHA,  
IS the Agent for the sale of  
**Wheeler & Wilson's Sewing Machines.**  
This Machine is unlike the Grover & Baker or Boudoir Machine in forming the stitch. It gives the stitch the same appearance on both sides of the work, locking in the centre, while the other machines give the lock-stitch on the under side of the work.

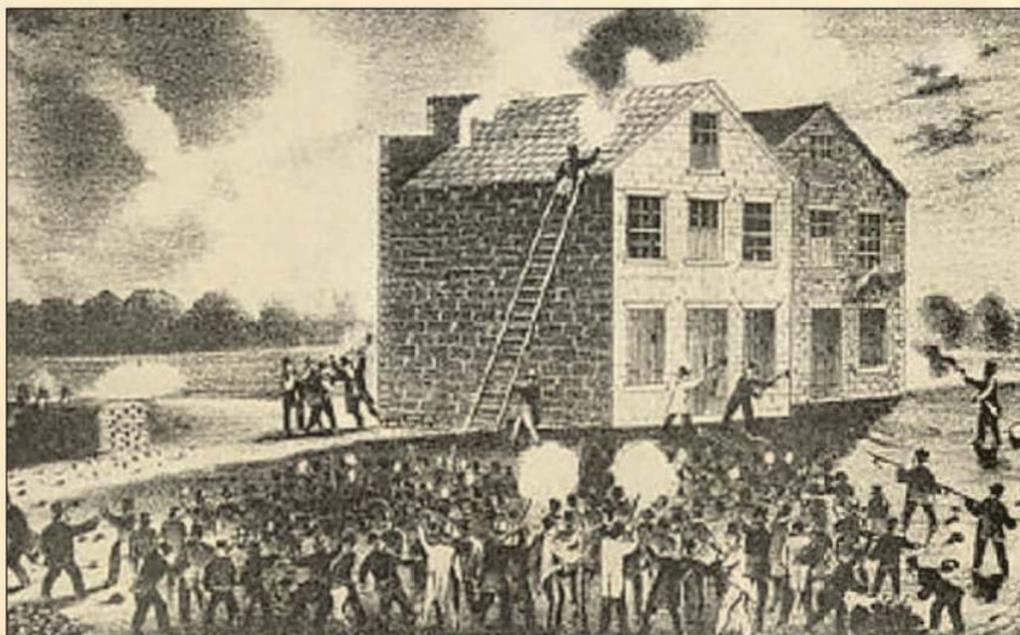
THE MACHINES ARE FOR SALE AT  
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with the addition of freight, and warranted perfect  
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BENEDICT.  
The public are invited to call and examine them  
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## ELIJAH P. LOVEJOY OF ALTON, ILLINOIS

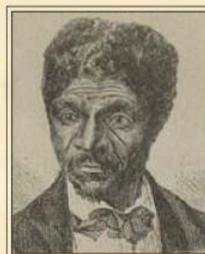
One of the most outspoken abolitionists was Elijah P. Lovejoy, editor of the *Alton Observer*. His strong stand for immediate emancipation aroused bitter opposition among Northern wage earners, who competed for jobs with free African-Americans. Angry mobs repeatedly destroyed Lovejoy's presses and threw them into the Mississippi River. But he always ordered another.

On November 7, 1837, a mob attacked the warehouse where the latest press was stored. Lovejoy, who was on guard with about 20 supporters, ran out to prevent the building from being set ablaze and received a fatal blast from a shotgun. The mob then seized the press, broke it into pieces, and dumped everything into the river.



## THE DRED SCOTT DECISION

The 1857 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Dred Scott's appeal for freedom infuriated abolitionists.



Scott, slave to an army surgeon from Missouri, moved with his owner to the free state of Illinois and the free territory of Minnesota before being taken back to the slave state of Missouri. He appealed to the Supreme Court in the hope of using the Missouri Compromise — which barred slavery from lands acquired in the Louisiana

Purchase — to gain his freedom. Scott's lawyers argued that living on free soil had made Scott a free man.

The Court responded by ruling the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, thus opening the way for slavery in all of the nation's territories. It also declared that all blacks, slave as well as free, were not and never could become citizens of the United States.

The fact that the Court was dominated by Southerners only intensified resentment and bitterness over the decision.

# THE WESTERN INDEPENDENT



VOL. IV

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE UPPER MIDDLE WEST

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## FAILURE OF COMPROMISE

In the end, the rapid growth of the Upper Middle West destroyed efforts to maintain a balance of power between the North and South.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 drew the line between slave and free states and excluded slavery forever from the old Northwest Territory — lands that became much of the new Upper Middle West. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 barred slavery from the immense northern part of the territory acquired in the Louisiana Purchase.

The Compromise of 1850, in addition

to strengthening the emotionally charged Fugitive Slave Law, allowed for territorial government in lands ceded by Mexico after the Mexican War. Settlers in the new territories would themselves decide whether their lands should be slave or free. This measure served as a pattern for the Kansas-Nebraska Act.

In 1854, the provisions of the Kansas-Nebraska Act overturned the Missouri Compromise by opening the way for slavery in lands where it had been barred. Northern states were furious. The careful balance of slave states and free states was over.

## THE BIRD HAS FLOWN

— From the *Sabbath Recorder*, 1854

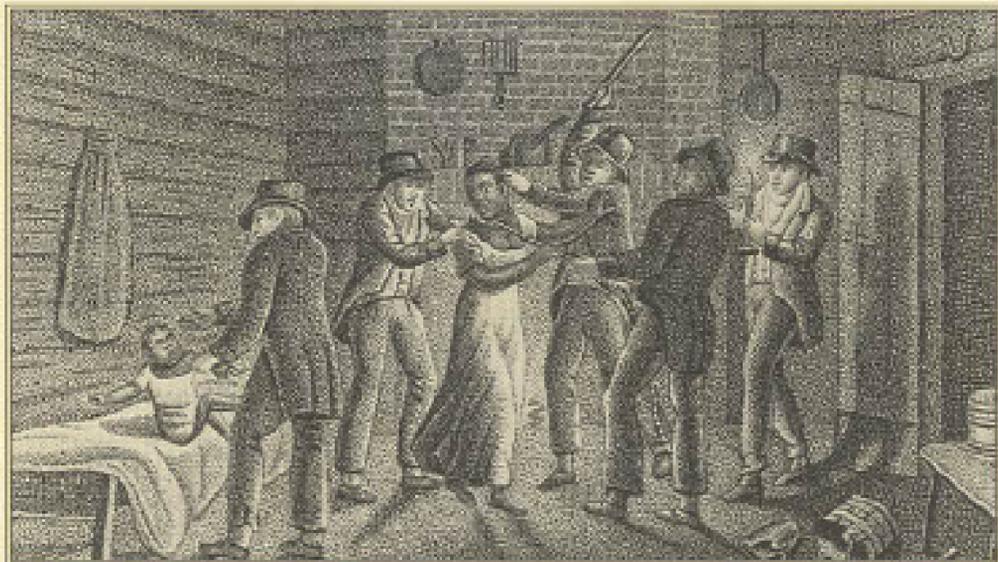
The slave-hunters appear to be particularly busy in Wisconsin. At the last accounts they were in pursuit of a female, about 24 years of age, nearly white, and beautiful, who has been residing for some time in Kenosha. But the matter some how got out, and when the kidnappers arrived in that city, the bird had flown, having taken the express train for Canada several hours previous to their arrival.

## The Fugitive Slave Law

No issue aroused more violent feeling in the North and Upper Middle West than the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. It allowed slave owners or their representatives to follow runaway slaves into free states and demand the assistance of local and federal authorities in recapturing them.

The new law came at a time when the crusade against slavery was sweeping the Western world. New England editor William Lloyd Garrison and others roused the passions of the abolitionists, who opposed slavery on moral grounds.

Disobedience to the new law was widespread in the Middle West. A Wisconsin incident involving runaway slave Joshua Glover led to a challenge of the law. A mob rushed the county jail in Milwaukee where Glover was being held, breaking down the door and secreting him away to Canada and freedom.



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DUTY OF THE NORTHERN STATES IN RELATION TO THE FUTURE OF SLAVERY:

# A SERMON,

DELIVERED

BY THE REV. W. H. BRISBANE

On The Evening of Sunday, March 3rd, 1850.

**LET THE NORTH  
AWAKE!**

"NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS."

**F. DOUGLASS**

Will discuss the Immorality, Illegality  
& Unconstitutionality of  
AMERICAN SLAVERY,  
and the Duty & Power of the General  
Government to Abolish it,

IN *Camp House in Milwaukee*

AT *7 o'clock P.M.*

*October 18, 1856*

Mr. Frederick Douglass, former slave, champion of  
Freedom and eloquent voice of the Oppressed will speak  
of his life, experiences & the dread institution of Slavery.  
All are respectfully invited to attend.

It is one of the Devil's devices to prevent the enforcement of moral principles by creating a cry against Ministers of the Gospel having anything to say about the political condition of the country. Oftentimes the politics of the country are so interwoven with the religious or moral character of the people, that a faithful Minister of Christ would be derelict in his duty were he not to speak out plainly from the pulpit on such subjects; but the great adversary of souls, pretending to be an Angel

of Light misleads many into the belief that it is not preaching Christ and his cross when we endeavor to arrest the downward tendency of the morality of the country through the compromises of politicians with this advocate of unrighteousness.

I so far concur with the general sentiment of my fellow citizens against pulpit politics that I would not have a Minister own the pulpit as a partisan does the rostrum or the stump. But there are occasions when for Christ's sake he ought to endeavor to guide the public mind in the way of political truths because such truth is important in the progress of Christianity. The principals of Christianity embrace every subject involving human or moral responsibility. And as statesmen, legislators and citizens are now called upon in an especial manner to reflect what is their duty to their country, and to their God in the present crisis of our public affairs, I feel impressed with it as my duty to present to the consideration of my congregation what I conceive to be the true course for a Christian people to take in their political determination in reference to the great evil which is the cause of our troubles and anxieties.

I do not wish to say any thing that is not perfectly consistent with the most fraternal feeling for every section of my country, and for all classes of the population of every section. The Lord of Heaven knows how warmly I love my southern brethren. I was born and raised in South Carolina; and I have numerous relatives there — all slaveholders — who love me and whom I dearly love. I would willingly be taxed to the amount of all the little property I have in this world, and die in the poor house, if by so doing I could bring the South into unity with the North without the sacrifice of principle. But no friendships — no consanguineous ties — no sectional partialities — no personal considerations of profit or reputation, nothing, nothing shall move me to abandon those sacred principles in one jot or one tittle for which our fathers fought and bled and conquered; principles for which Jesus Christ himself shed his blood to establish them in the hearts of men.

But it is time that I proceed to the discussion of my subject, viz:

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## Abolitionism and the Upper Middle West

The rise of abolitionism — the opposition to slavery — evolved in the United States as part of an international movement to end human bondage. At first, American opponents supported moving black Americans to Africa or the Caribbean, but it soon became obvious such schemes were wholly impractical.

Britain emancipated its slaves in 1833; France and Denmark followed in 1848. In the United States radical New England abolitionists demanded immediate emancipation. By the 1850s, there were 2,000 anti-slave societies in the North. They were largely the effort of an extremely vocal movement

including Quakers, freed blacks, and some Protestant denominations and based on religious and humanitarian values.

Opposition to slavery grew in the Upper Middle West with the development of free farming, labor-saving farm machinery, and the growth of humanitarian concerns. Southerners, however, depended on slavery to meet the demands of their labor-intensive agricultural crops. They sought to strengthen laws that protected their slave-holding rights, and began to view the rise of the Upper Middle West and western politicians with growing concern.

## On the Underground Railroad

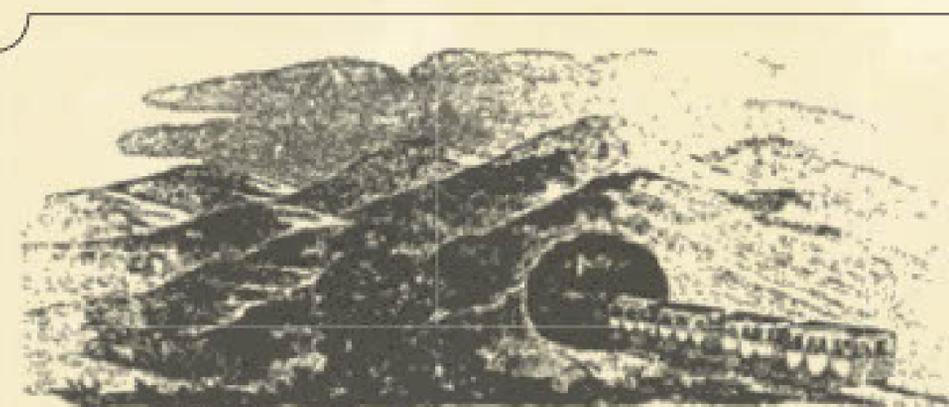
'Underground Railroad' is the symbolic term given to the routes used by fugitive slaves to escape to freedom in the North and Canada before the Civil War.

Fleeing from slavery was usually a desperate and dangerous act, and fugitives who were caught were harshly punished as an example to other slaves. It is believed most runaways were young men unrestrained by family who often fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They usually fled in an attempt to renew family ties, avoid punishment, or escape from new masters.

Runaways most often found help within free black and Quaker communities. Many Midwest religious groups were involved. Among the 'conductors' promoting the Railroad's secret work was Levi Coffin of Newport, Indiana (now Fountain City), often called the "President of the Underground Railroad." Laura Smith Haviland worked openly in Michigan as a 'conductor,' sounding a loud horn when slave-catchers approached so the hunted could seek safety.

Much of this assistance was spontaneous rather than organized. Little is actually known of the Underground Railroad, as it was illegal and therefore secretive — and sometimes unpopular. Many sources are accounts written long after the events. Most of these stories appeared after the Civil War and are based on the recollections of aging abolitionists and so romanced by news reporters it became hard to separate fact from folklore.

One of the few autobiographical accounts of the Underground Railroad to survive is that of Caroline Quarlls Watkins, who escaped to Canada and wrote of her experiences.



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J. CROSS, *Proprietor.*

N. B. For the special benefit of Pro-Slavery Police Officers, an extra heavy wagon for Texas, will be furnished, whenever it may be necessary, in which they will be forwarded as dead freight, to the "Valley of Rascals," always at the risk of the owners.

☛ Extra Overcoats provided to such of them as are afflicted with protracted *chilly-phobia.*