The Underground Railroad in Missouri and Kansas

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Instructions: Please feel free to take this page with you at the conclusion of the event.

To learn more about the people featured in the program, The Underground Railroad in Missouri and Kansas, see these historical accounts:

**Historical Participants**

Elizabeth Abbott, Underground Railroad operative

James B. Abbott, Underground Railroad operative

John Armstrong, Underground Railroad operative

Mary Bell, born enslaved

Reverend Lewis Bodwell, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Topeka and an Underground Railroad conductor

John Bowles, Underground Railroad operative

John Brown, Underground Railroad operative


Henry Clay Bruce, born enslaved
Bruce, Henry Clay. The New Man: Twenty-nine Years a Slave, Twenty-nine Years a Free Man. York, PA: P. Anstadt, 1895; reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press, 1996. 96-97.
Richard Bruner, born enslaved
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/P?mesn:21:./temp/-ammem_KCl3:..

Reverend Richard Cordley, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, and an Underground Railroad operative

Dr. John Doy Underground Railroad operative

Reverend Hugh D. Fisher, Topeka minister, Underground Railroad operative, and Civil War chaplain

Joseph Gardner, Underground Railroad operative

Theodore Gardner, Underground Railroad operative

Robert McFarland, blacksmith

Richard Mendenhall, teacher, religious leader, and Underground Railroad operative
Ellis, Mary. “History of Spring Grove Friends Church, Osawatomie, KS.” *Spring Grove Friends Church.* http://www.springgrovemeeting.org/history/historyellis.php.

Ephraim Nute, Underground Railroad operative


Reuben Smith, friend of Underground Railroad operatives

John E. Stewart, Underground Railroad operative
John E. Stewart (continued)

Eli Thayer, a U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts whose mission was to see Kansas admitted to the Union as a free state

John Greenleaf Whittier, abolitionist poet

Selected Histories:

(an address before the Kansas State Historical Society at its twenty-sixth annual meeting, 21 January 1902)


Additional information on crime and punishment in Missouri for slave stealing is provided by:

The Kansas Territorial Law which imposed brutal penalties for anti-slavery activities in Kansas can be found at:

For a description of jails in Lecompton, Kansas Territory; Weston, Missouri; and other jails in which abolitionists were held, see:


Information on the activities of the New England Emigrant Aid Company in Kansas Territory is provided by:


Additional information on women’s activities during the border war, see:


Details on women defenders-with-weapons can also be found in:


The Underground Railroad in Missouri and Kansas is part of the Shared Stories of the Civil War Reader’s Theater project, a partnership between the Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area and the Kansas Humanities Council.

For More Information
Freedom Frontier National Heritage Area www.freedomsfrontier.org
Kansas Humanities Council www.kansashumanities.org