

The Underground Railroad



“When I found I had crossed that line I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything...and I felt as if I was in Heaven.”

– Harriet Tubman

What is the Underground Railroad?

- The Underground Railroad was a term used for a network of people, homes, and hideouts that slaves in the southern United States used to escape to freedom in the Northern United States and Canada.
- The Underground Railroad wasn't really a railroad!
 - It was a name given to the way that people escaped. No one is sure where it originally got its name, but the "underground" part of the name comes from its secrecy and the "railroad" part of the name comes from the way it was used to transport people.
- The Underground Railroad ran from 1810 to the 1860s. It peaked during the Civil War in the 1850s.

Conductors and Stations

- The Underground Railroad used railroad terms in its organization.
- People who led the slaves along the route were called **conductors**. Hideouts and homes where slaves hid along the way were called **stations** or **depots**.
- Even people who helped by giving money and food were sometimes called **stockholders**.

Conductors of the
Underground Railroad



Michigan Street Baptist Church

Who worked on the railroad?

- Many people from various backgrounds worked as conductors and provided safe places for the slaves to stay along the route.
- Some of the conductors were former slaves such as **Harriet Tubman** who escaped using the Underground Railroad and then returned to help more slaves escape.
- Many white people who felt that slavery was wrong also helped. They often provided hideouts in their homes as well as food and other supplies.

Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)

- Harriet Tubman was born a slave on a plantation in Maryland. Historians think she was born in 1820, or possibly 1821, but birth records weren't kept by most slave owners.
- In 1849 Harriet decided to escape. She used the Underground Railroad. She finally became a free person when she made it to Pennsylvania
- Harriet wanted to help others, including her family, to safety in Canada. She joined the Underground Railroad as a conductor.
- Harriet became famous as an Underground Railroad conductor. She led nineteen different escapes from the south and helped around 300 slaves to escape.



Harriet Tubman: Long Terms Effects

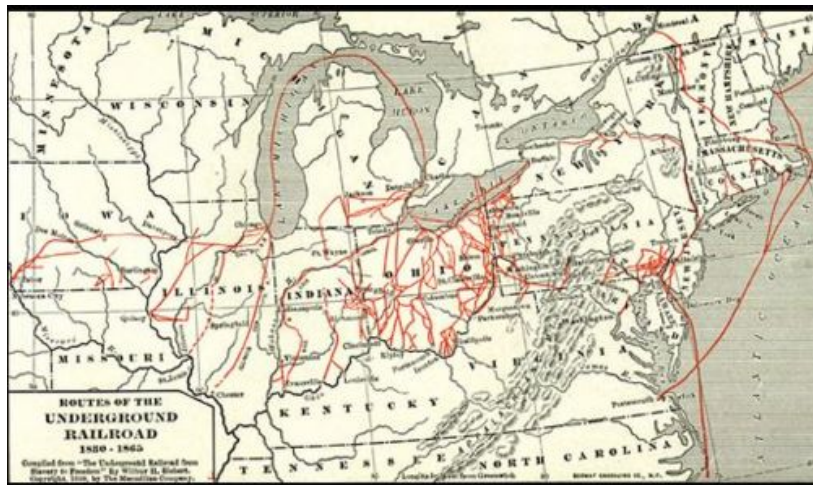
- Harriet Tubman impacted the world in a good way because she made them think about slavery twice and also helped the slaves recover their freedom.
- She also helped the women's suffrage movement to show that women can and that has impacted us now to think twice about every women.
- All this leads to another impact which is that everyone should pay more attention to women and they have changed their visual and mental aspect towards women and blacks.

How did people travel on the 'railroad'?

- Traveling on the Underground Railroad was difficult and dangerous. Slaves would often travel by foot at night. They would sneak from one station to the next, hoping not to get caught.
- Stations were usually around 10 to 20 miles apart. Sometimes they would have to wait at one station for a while until they knew the next station was safe and ready for them.

Where did the Underground Railroad take place?

- The Underground Railroad went North to freedom. Sometimes passengers stopped when they reached a free state such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or Ohio.
- After 1850, most escaping slaves traveled all the way to Canada. They had to go to Canada to make sure they would be safe.



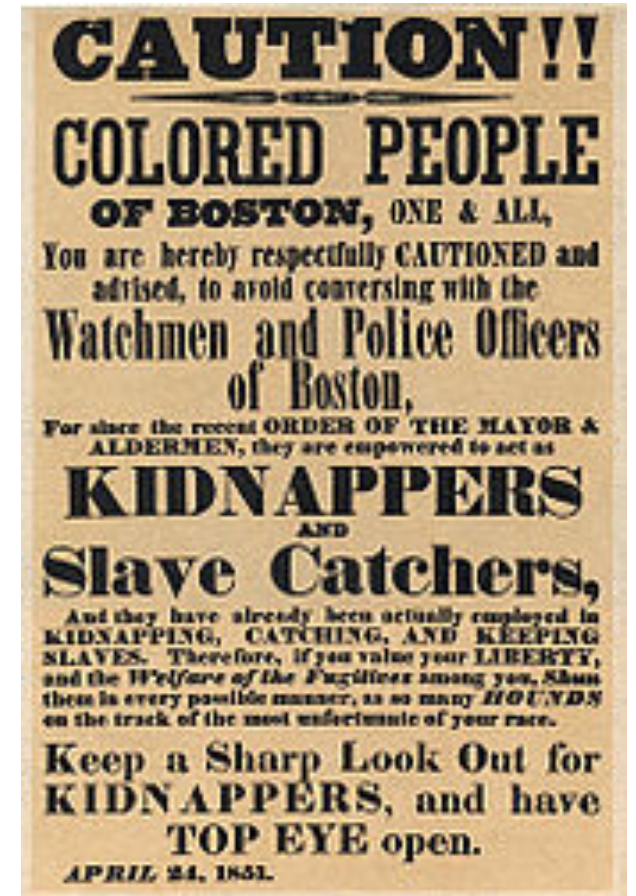
*Routes of the
Underground
Railroad*

Map of the Underground Railroad



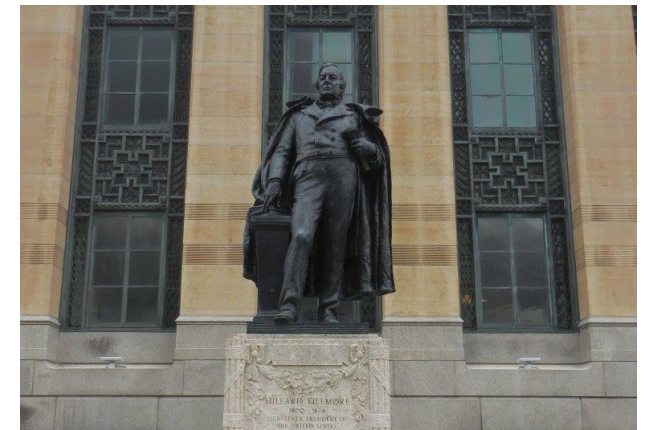
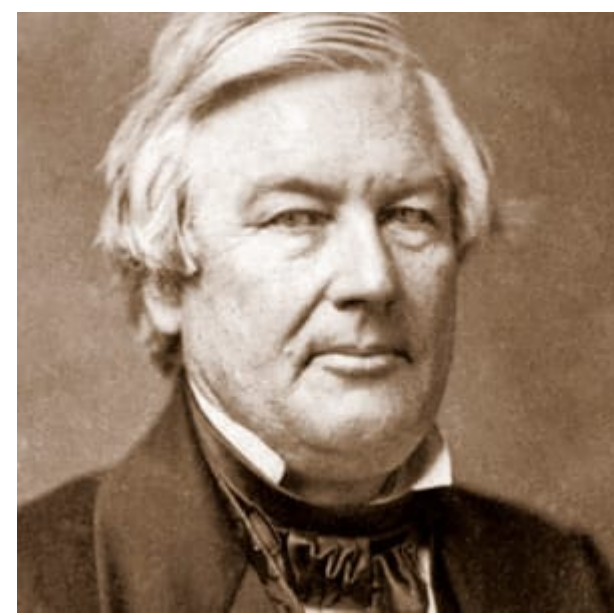
Fugitive Slaves Act

- In 1850 the **Fugitive Slave Act** was passed in the United States.
- This made it a law that runaway slaves found in free states had to be returned to their owners in the south.
- This made it even more difficult for the Underground Railroad. Now slaves needed to be transported all the way to Canada in order to be safe from being captured again.



Millard Fillmore (1800-1874)

- Millard Fillmore was born in New York on January 7, 1800
- He became vice president under President Zachary Taylor, assuming the presidency after Taylor's death in 1850
- In 1819, Millard Fillmore got a job as a clerk with a local judge, and was admitted to the New York bar in 1823
- In 1832 Millard Fillmore became one of the U.S. House of Representatives in. During this time, Fillmore supported the protective tariff and eliminating the slave trade between the states.
- In 1846, he helped establish the University at Buffalo and served as its first chancellor



The End of the Underground Railroad

- On January 1st, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the **Emancipation Proclamation** liberating slaves in Confederate states.
- After the war ended, the 13th amendment to the Constitution was approved in 1865 which abolished slavery in the entire United States and therefore was the end of the Underground Railroad.



Emancipation Proclamation

- President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war.
- The proclamation declared "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be free."
- The Emancipation Proclamation freed 3.1 million of the nation's 4 million slaves.

