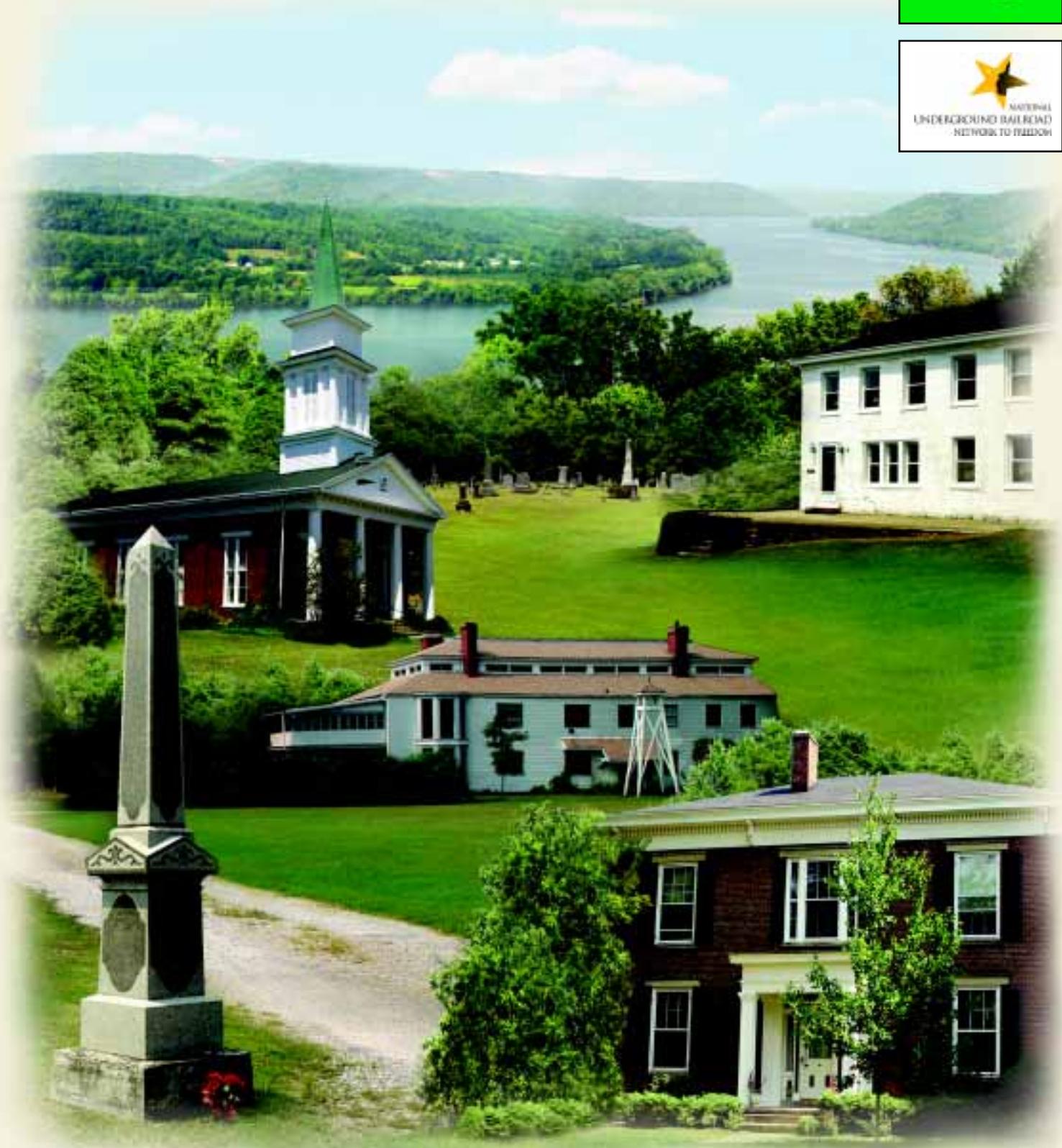


Clermont County, Ohio
Freedom Trail^{TN}

Underground Railroad and Abolitionist Sites

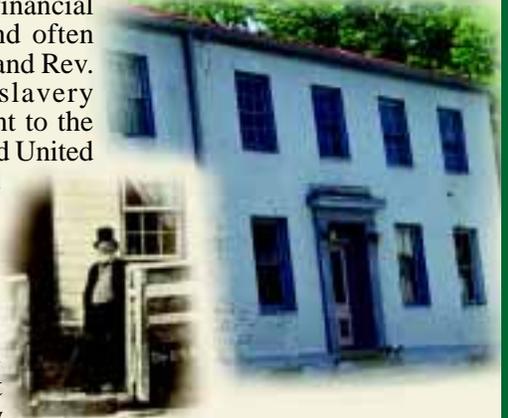


Legacies of Liberty... the People and the Places...



1 Rev. George C. Light Home Site... This is the former residence (shown at left) of Reverend George C. Light (1785-1860), a Methodist minister, who was an agent of the American Colonization Society. The Colonization Society was formed in 1816, for the purpose of voluntarily removing free blacks to Africa. James Madison, Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln were members of the organization. The country of Liberia was established as a result of the society's efforts. (401 Front St., New Richmond - see map below)

2 Dr. John Rogers Home Site... This site (shown at right) was the home of Dr. John Rogers. He was the first president of the Clermont County Anti-Slavery Society in 1836, a Liberty Party candidate for public office and a member of the Chieftains of Liberty vigilance committee. Dr. Rogers (shown at right) was a financial supporter of James G. Birney, publisher of "The Philanthropist" newspaper, and often patrolled the streets of New Richmond to guard the paper's office. In 1843, Rogers and Rev. Amos Dresser, the famed Lane Seminary rebel, drafted a strong anti-slavery memorial for the New Richmond Presbyterian Church and submitted the statement to the Cincinnati Presbytery. Rogers was married to Julia Morris, daughter of abolitionist and United States Senator Thomas Morris. Dr. Rogers practiced medicine for over 60 years and is most noted for the delivery of Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the United States, in Pt. Pleasant, 1822. (305 - 307 Front St., New Richmond - see map below)

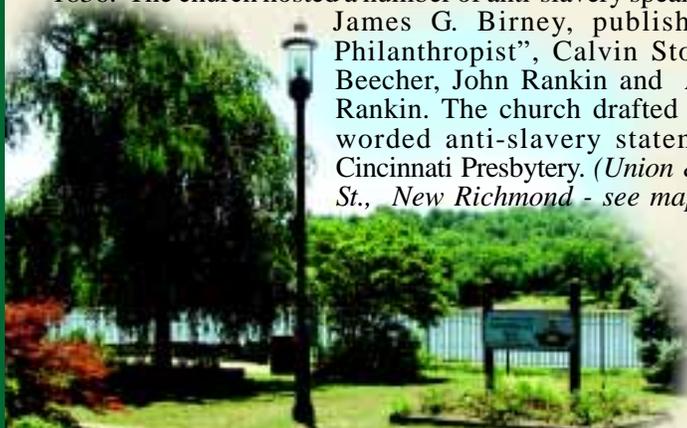


3 New Richmond Waterfront... This riverfront park (shown below) was once an active port, in the 19th Century for transporting agricultural products from the surrounding area. The village was an early center of abolitionist activity, hosting the first Anti-Slavery Society in Clermont County. James G. Birney published "The Philanthropist" newspaper in the village during 1836. Many fugitives passed through New Richmond. In one instance, an escaped slave named Leroy Lee was freed in New Richmond. Slave-hunters captured him in Cincinnati and returned through the village only to be confronted by a large crowd demanding his release. The slave-hunters were fortunate to escape the villagers and Leroy Lee stayed in New Richmond until he enlisted in the U.S. Army. (Front St. New Richmond - see map below) Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



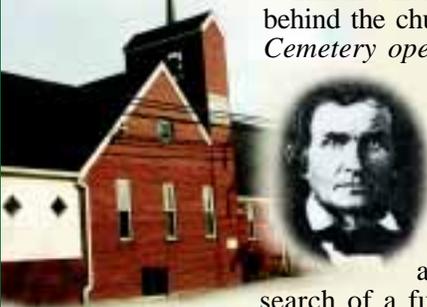
4 The Philanthropist Newspaper... In the vicinity of Walnut, Willow and Front Street once stood the offices of "The Philanthropist". Publisher, James G. Birney was a former slave owner and agent of the American Anti-Slavery Society. "The Philanthropist" issued its first edition on January 1, 1836. Christian Donaldson and Dr. John Rogers gave financial support for the project. The paper's content often prompted the anger of slaveholders and their apologists. There were several threats against the paper during the time it was published at this location. A vigilante group was formed, by the citizens of New Richmond, to protect the paper. "The Philanthropist" was moved to Cincinnati in April of 1836. The move was made because the weekly commute from Birney's home in Cincinnati to New Richmond had become too much for him. The move to Cincinnati roused the ire of anti-abolitionists in the city. An angry mob was formed on the evening of July 30, 1836. The mob broke into the paper's office and destroyed the presses. The paper re-opened soon thereafter and continued to print incendiary commentary upon the slavery issue. (Walnut St., New Richmond - "between Willow and Front St." - see map below)

5 Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church... (shown on cover) The Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church took an early and uncompromising stand against slavery. Reverend Amos Dresser, Lane Theological Seminary rebel and anti-slavery martyr, was a minister of the church. At a previous location, the church hosted the organizational meeting of the New Richmond Anti-Slavery Society in 1836. The church hosted a number of anti-slavery speakers including James G. Birney, publisher of "The Philanthropist", Calvin Stowe, George Beecher, John Rankin and Alexander T. Rankin. The church drafted two strongly worded anti-slavery statements to the Cincinnati Presbytery. (Union & Washington St., New Richmond - see map at right)





6 Lindale Baptist Church and Cemetery... Lindale Baptist Church (shown below) was the church of Andrew Coombs, Jr. (1805-1864). Coombs (shown below) was the organizing secretary of the Gilead Anti-Slavery Society in 1836. Coombs' residence was once located next to the Lindale Church. It became a way station between John Rankin in Ripley and Levi Coffin in Cincinnati. His burial site is located in the cemetery immediately behind the church. (3052 St. Rt. 132, Amelia - see county map inside) Cemetery open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



7 Clermont / Parker Academy... The Parker Academy, also known as the Clermont Academy, was a private school organized in 1839. It was open to students of both genders (co-ed) and all races. The original school building is no longer standing but the dorm (shown at top right) and commemorative monument can be seen at the site. Edwin Mathews, a former slave of James G. Birney, was the first black student enrolled. Plantation owners brought their bi-racial children here to be educated. Many of the children of Clermont's abolitionists were also enrolled. On at least one occasion slave hunters came to the school in

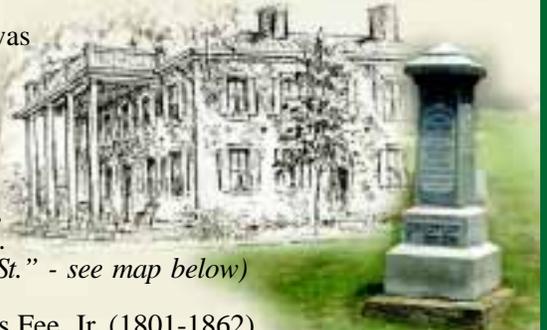
search of a fugitive. 1,500 students attended the school during its fifty-three year history. (1324 Clermontville-Laurel Rd.- see county map inside)



8 Robert E. Fee Burial Site - Moscow Cemetery... Robert E. Fee (1796-1879), an active conductor in Moscow, was a member of Clermont County's most prominent Underground Railroad family. His father Thomas Sr., brother Thomas Jr., sister Nancy and cousins in nearby Felicity are also documented conductors. Robert E. Fee, his wife, Catherine Ebersole and their children are all buried at this location. (Burial marker shown below) Catherine was the sister of Jacob Ebersole who was also active in the Underground Railroad. (Off St. Rt. 52 on Cemetery Rd., Moscow - see map below) Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



9 Robert E. Fee Home Site... On this parcel of land was once the residence (shown at right) of Robert E. Fee (1796-1879). Fee became involved in the rescue attempt of Fanny Wigglesworth and her four children, who were kidnapped and enslaved. After two unsuccessful attempts to rescue the family, he dedicated himself to helping the enslaved escape to freedom. In 1852, Fee was indicted by Pendleton County, Kentucky Grand Jury for slave stealing, however the Governor of Ohio refused to extradite him to stand trial.



(Water St., Moscow - "the north end of Water St. & Wells St." - see map below)

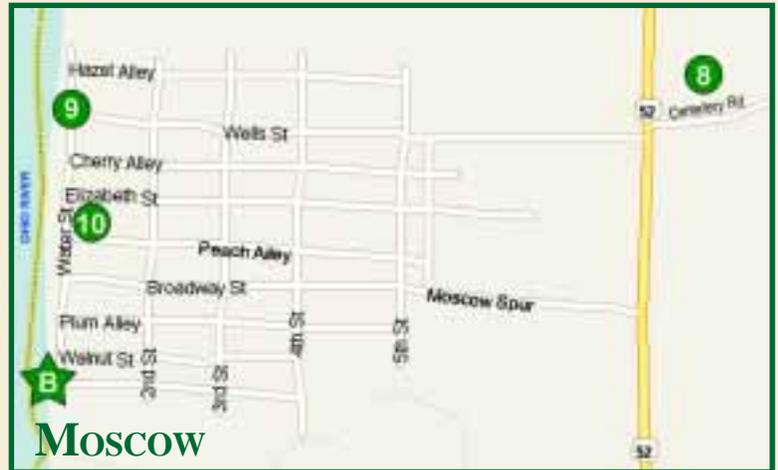


10 Fee Villa... Once the residence of Thomas Fee, Jr. (1801-1862), the Fee Villa (shown at left) was a stop on the Underground Railroad in Moscow. It is located on the Ohio River, facing Pendleton County, Kentucky. The glow of lit candles in windows acted as a signal to escaping slaves that the building was a safe house. The fugitives were harbored in the basement. After being fed and clothed from the onsite general store, they were transported to Felicity, the next stop in Clermont County. Thomas Fee, Jr. was a member of the prominent abolitionist Fee family. His father, brother and sister was also very involved in the Underground Railroad. (110 Water St., Moscow - see map below)

11 The Wigglesworth Kidnapping ... On October 30, 1842, several men broke into the home of Fanny and Vincent Wigglesworth. They kidnapped Fanny and her four children and enslaved them. They eventually were taken to Platte County, Missouri. Robert E. Fee, of Moscow, became the agent of Vincent Wigglesworth. Fee traveled to Missouri on two occasions for the purpose of bringing the family back home. Two of the kidnappers were indicted by the State of Ohio and the Governor of Ohio executed extradition papers. The two were arrested but soon released. Unfortunately, the Wigglesworth family did not return and their fate remains a mystery. (St. Rt. 743, Big Indian Rd., Washington Township - see county map inside)



12 Old Calvary Methodist Church... The Calvary Methodist Church was once located on this site (shown on cover) before the brick structure was built across the road. On November 4, 1842, members of the community met at the church to discuss the Wigglesworth kidnapping. In attendance at the meeting were future U.S. Congressman David Fisher and Ohio State Senator Doughty Utter. The group condemned the act as "a heinous crime" and petitioned the Governor of the Ohio to intervene on the family's behalf. The Wigglesworth family was carried off to Kentucky and eventually to Missouri. (St. Rt. 756, Washington Township - see county map inside) Cemetery open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



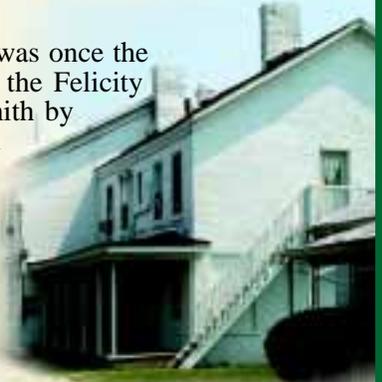


13 Felicity Wesleyan Church... The Felicity Wesleyan Church (shown at left) was formed in 1847, when forty members of the Methodist Church left over the slavery issue. Among its members were conductors of the Underground Railroad including Dr. Mathew Gibson, Nelson Gibson and Joseph Parrish. Rev. Silas Chase, MD, was a Wesleyan Church organizer and pastor of the Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church, Bethel Wesleyan Church and the Felicity Wesleyan Church. Rev. Chase was involved with Underground Railroad activity in Bethel. (305 Main St., Felicity - see map below)



14 Will Sleet Home Site... This parcel of land was once the home site of Will Sleet, a prominent member of the Felicity Underground Railroad network. Sleet, a blacksmith by occupation, was a free Kentucky-born African

American. He assisted a number of fugitive slaves on their way north and is specifically mentioned by Peter Stokes in his escape narrative in the Wilbur Siebert Papers. (411 Harrison Ave., Felicity - see map below)

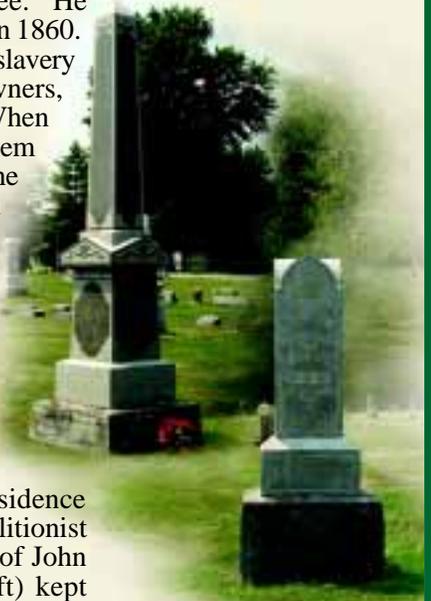


15 Andrew Powell Home Site... This was once the residence of Andrew Powell (shown at right). Powell was a wealthy businessman who used his ornate and well-known private carriage to transport fugitive slaves from the Ohio River to Felicity. (416 Union St., Felicity - see map below)

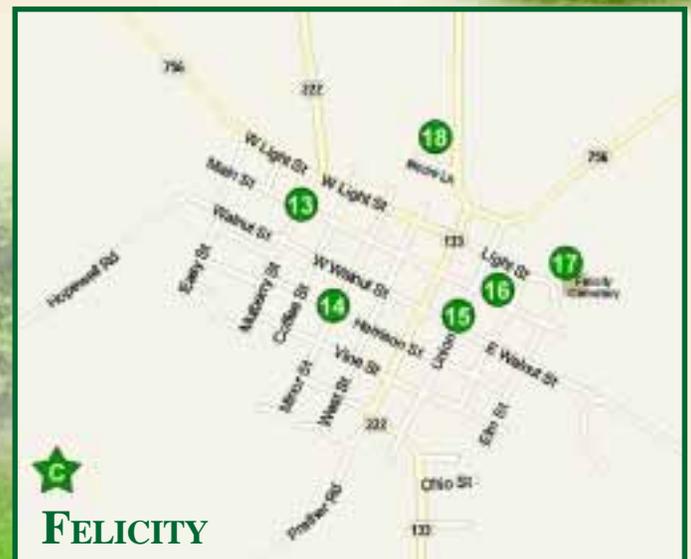


16 Oliver Perry Spencer Fee Store... O.P.S. Fee (1823-1873) was the grandson of Felicity's founder, William Fee. He attended the Democratic National Convention in 1860. O.P.S. Fee (shown at left) loudly proclaimed pro-slavery sentiments in order to gain the trust of slave owners, when he was infact the Felicity stationmaster. When slave-hunters came to him for help, he directed them in the opposite direction. Fee fed and clothed the escapees from his store, located at this site (shown at left). (208 Main St., Felicity - see map below)

17 Felicity Cemetery... The Felicity Cemetery (shown at right) is the burial site of Arthur Fee (1791-1879) and Oliver Perry Spencer Fee (1823-1873), noted abolitionists and key members of the Underground Railroad activity in Felicity. (Light St., Felicity - see map below) Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



18 Arthur Fee Home Site... On this parcel of land was once the residence (shown below) of Arthur Fee (1791-1879), a member of the prominent abolitionist Fee Family. He was cousin of the Fee's in Moscow and a second cousin of John Gregg Fee, the noted Kentucky abolitionist. Arthur Fee (shown at left) kept fugitives in his fruit cellar before he secured their transportation further into Bethel. He chose "Arthur Fee tried to be a good man" as his epitaph. (1 Moores Lane, Felicity - see map at right)





25 Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church and Cemetery... The Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church, founded by anti-slavery Methodists in 1845, was one of the first Wesleyan churches organized in Ohio. The first pastor of the church was Rev. Silas Chase, MD, a prominent member of the Bethel Underground Railroad network. A 35 by 45-foot chapel was built, in 1848 at this site, on land donated by Isaac Holmes Brown. Brown, a well known conductor,

assisted by transporting fugitives in wagons from Felicity to Bethel and harboring them at his house near Bethel. Then he arranged transportation to either C. B. Huber in Williamsburg or to White Oak station in Brown County. Brown's burial site (shown at left) is located in the church cemetery. The church was also the site of numerous anti-slavery meetings held by Rev. Gerrard P. Riley, a later pastor of the church. Riley was an area conductor who carried on his activities throughout the Civil War. The Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church was attended by the many individuals involved in the Underground Railroad including James Bunton, Benjamin Rice, Richard Mace, and O.W. Vandosol. *(Crane School House Rd., Bethel - see county map below) Cemetery open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.*



26 Marcus Sims - Huber Tannery Location... This site was chosen to commemorate Marcus Sims and his activities in the Underground Railroad. A tannery, owned by Charles B. Huber, once stood at this location (shown at right). Huber employed Marcus Sims, who was a free African American from Virginia. Sims also served as "engineer" or wagon-master,

for Huber, carrying fugitives to the next station in Brown, Clinton or Highland Counties. Sims continued to run the wagon for Dr. L.T. Pease when he took over the Williamsburg station in 1854. Sims enlisted in the United States Army and was killed during the Civil War in 1864. *(134 S. Second St., Williamsburg - see map below)*

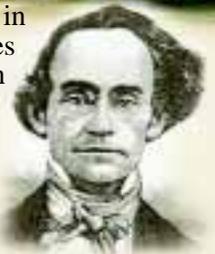
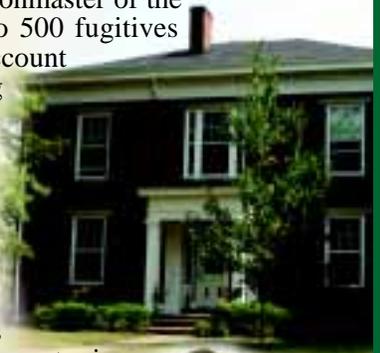


27 Charles B. Huber Home Site... This was once the residence (shown at left) of Charles "Boss" B. Huber, Williamsburg stationmaster of the Underground Railroad. He assisted between 300 to 500 fugitives escape during his time as an active conductor. One account recorded that there were seventeen fugitives staying

with Huber in one night. Upon his death in 1854, Huber's neighbor, Dr. L.T. Pease took over the Williamsburg operation. *(160 Gay St., Williamsburg - see map below)*



28 Dr. Leavitt Thaxter Pease Home Site... This site (shown at right) was the home and medical office of Dr. L. T. Pease, abolitionist and Underground Railroad Conductor. Dr. Pease (shown at right) moved to Williamsburg in 1835, with his wife Nancy Fee, the sister of Robert Fee who served as stationmaster in Moscow. Dr. Pease assisted Charles B. Huber in hiding and transporting of fugitive slaves enroute to Canada. He took over as stationmaster of Williamsburg upon Huber's death in 1854. *(180 Gay St., Williamsburg - see map below)*



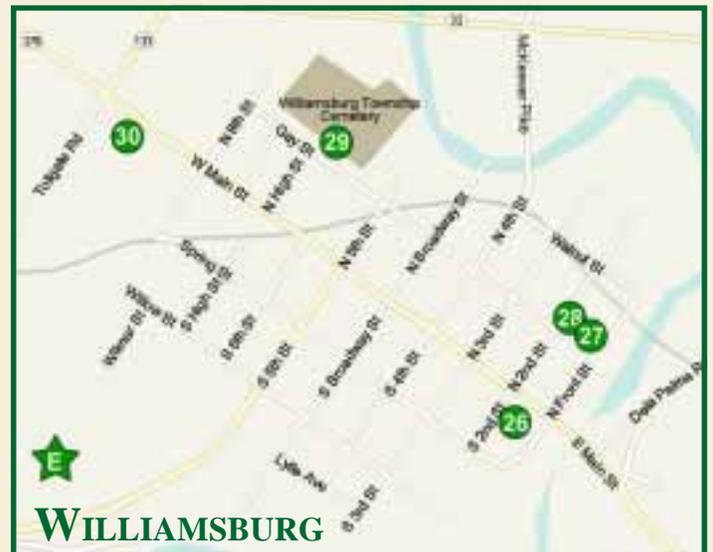
29 Williamsburg Township Cemetery... This cemetery (shown at left) contains the burial sites of three Underground Railroad operatives: Charles B. Huber (1806-1854); Dr. L. T. Pease (1809-1874); Samuel Peterson (1836-

1921). Peterson, a stonemason by trade, assisted C. B. Huber in Underground Railroad operations. He would carry food to the fugitives at the Huber place and transport them by wagon to the next stop in either Brown or Clinton Counties. *(Gay St., Williamsburg - "between 8th St. & 5th St." - see map at right)*

Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



30 Charles B. Huber Farm... This parcel of land was once part of the farm owned by Charles B. Huber, stationmaster of the Underground Railroad for Williamsburg. In addition to secreting fugitives at his home, Huber hid them in the haybarn and cornshocks at this farm on the outskirts of town. *(975 W. Main St., Williamsburg - see map at right)*



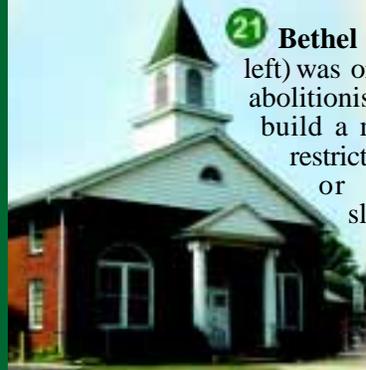
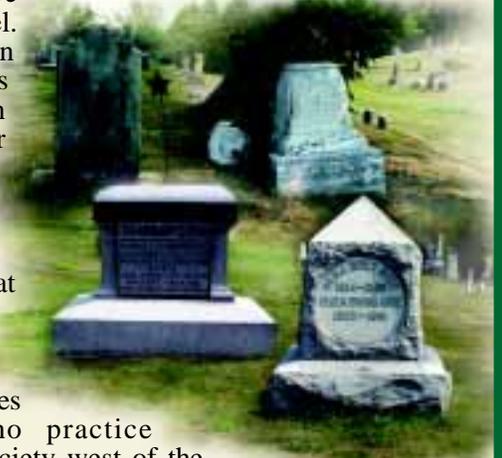


19 Dr. William E. Thompson Boyhood Home Site... Dr. William Eberle Thompson (1835-1940), a noted Underground Railroad conductor, lived in this home (shown at left) during the time he was active in the Bethel Underground Railroad Network. *(137 Main St., Bethel - see map below)*



20 Tate Township Cemetery... This cemetery (shown below) contains the burial sites of Bethel's four most active members of the Underground Railroad. The individuals: Benjamin Rice, Richard Mace, Dr. William E. Thompson and Rev. Silas Chase, MD, were all members of the Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church. Benjamin Rice

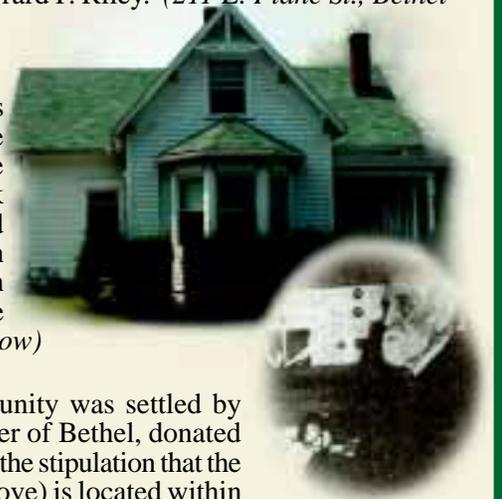
(1814-1893), a Tate Township carpenter, often conducted slaves from Felicity to Bethel. Rice, frequently assisted by Richard Mace (1803-1894), transported slaves in a wagon with a false bottom, hauling oats as a cover. Rev. Silas Chase, MD (1813-1864) was also a medical doctor with an office in Bethel. He founded the Sugar Tree Wesleyan Church in 1845, the first Wesleyan church in Clermont County. Chase was a member of the organizing committee of the great anti-slavery convention held in Cincinnati in 1850. *(East St., Bethel - "between Cherry St. & Denham St." - see map below)*
Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



21 Bethel Baptist Church... The Bethel Baptist Church (shown at left) was organized in 1798, as an anti-slavery church. Obed Denham, abolitionist and founder of Bethel, donated two lots for the church to build a meeting house and cemetery. Denham placed a deed restriction upon the gift, prohibiting the use by "those who hold slaves or commune at the Lord's table with those who practice slavery". The church became the first emancipating society west of the Alleghenies. The church joined the Baptized Licking Locust Association, an association of anti-slavery Baptists of Kentucky. Members of the church who were active in the Underground Railroad include Robert Vadosal and Gerrard P. Riley. *(211 E. Plane St., Bethel - see map below)*



22 Dr. William E. Thompson Home Site... This was the residence (shown at right) of Dr. William Eberle Thompson (1835-1940), who became an active member of the Bethel Underground Railroad network as a teenager. Dr. Thompson (shown at right) guided fugitives from Bethel to the Elklick area near Williamsburg. He would on occasion shoot hounds tracking the escaped slaves. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine in Bethel for eighty years and was active in village government and social affairs. *(213 E. Plane St., Bethel - see map below)*



23 Old Settlers Cemetery... This was the first cemetery in Bethel. The community was settled by abolitionists, many of whom are buried here. Obed Denham (1747-1817), the founder of Bethel, donated the land for the burial ground to the Bethel Baptist Church. These lots were given with the stipulation that the church not have communion with slaveholders. Denham's burial site (shown above) is located within the cemetery. *(North Main St., Bethel - "between Circus St. & Davis St." - see map at right)* Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



24 U.S. Senator Thomas Morris Burial Site... U.S. Senator Thomas Morris (1776-1844) is also buried in the Old Settlers Cemetery (shown at left). He was the only U.S. Senator to speak out against slavery from 1836-1839. Morris (shown at left), an attorney, represented defendants in a number of slavery related cases. He ran for vice-president on the Liberty Party ticket in 1844. *(North Main St., Bethel - "between Circus St. & Davis St." - see map at right)* Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.





31 Brice Blair Home Site... This building (shown at left) was once the residence of Brice Blair. Blair was an elder in the anti-slavery Batavia Presbyterian Church and the president of the Clermont County Anti-Slavery Society. Reverend George Beecher and his sister Harriet Beecher (Stowe) were frequent houseguests, when Rev. Beecher was in town to pastor at the Batavia Presbyterian Church. (123 North Third St., Batavia - see map below)



32 John Jolliffe - Clermont County Courthouse... This site (shown at right) commemorates John Jolliffe, Prosecuting Attorney for Clermont County from 1833-1837. In 1839, Jolliffe defended Brown County Underground Railroad conductor, John B Mahan, on charges of assisting a slave to escape. Jolliffe moved to Cincinnati and continued to defend escaped slaves and conductors. Jolliffe was best known for defending escaped slave Margaret Garner, who slashed the throat of her own daughter rather than see her return to slavery. (Clermont County Courthouse - 270 E. Main St., Batavia - see map at right)

33 Philip Gatch Burial Site - Greenlawn Cemetery... Reverend Philip Gatch (1751-1834) was a Methodist minister who freed the slaves that he inherited from his wife's father. Gatch moved to the Milford area in 1798, to escape the evils of slavery. Because of his anti-slavery viewpoint, Clermont County citizens selected him as a delegate to Ohio's first Constitutional Convention in 1802. The Greenlawn Cemetery was originally established on Gatch's farm as a family burial ground in 1811. Gatch and his wife Elizabeth are buried here. It also holds the burial site of John M. Pattison, 43rd governor of Ohio. (US Rt. 50 and Cemetery Rd., Milford - see county map below) Open to the public. Hours of operation may vary.



CLERMONT COUNTY

- A** NEW RICHMOND
(see insert map)
- B** MOSCOW
(see insert map)
- C** FELICITY
(see insert map)
- D** BETHEL
(see insert map)
- E** WILLIAMSBURG
(see insert map)
- F** BATAVIA
(see insert map)





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The *Clermont County, Ohio Freedom TrailTM* publication is intended for historical education and may be used as a walking or driving tour guide. Freedom Trail sites profiled are individually owned and operated. The majority of the sites are not open to the public. Locations that are available for public viewing are noted in the listing. Please respect the privacy and property of each site, as some sites are residential homes and businesses.



Sites listed with the **National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Logo** are approved National Park Service sites. For more information on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, log onto: www.cr.nps.gov/ugrr/index.htm

This publication is the result of a collaborative effort between the Clermont County, Ohio Board of County Commissioners, the Clermont County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Clermont Celebrates, Inc., and the National Park Service. Appreciation is extended to all individuals, elected officials, and organizations that made contributions towards the goals and objectives of this project. Historical Research: Gary Knepp; Publication Design: Stacey Stith; Photography: Dallas Howard.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Visitor information can be obtained from the Clermont County, Ohio Convention & Visitors Bureau by calling toll-free at 800-796-4282 or by logging on to www.clermontcvb-ohio.com. The Clermont County Visitor Center is located at 410 East Main Street, Batavia, Ohio. Visitor Center hours of operation are 9 AM to 5 PM EST, Monday through Friday.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Comfort Inn & Suites	513-947-0100
Country Inn & Suites	513-947-9402
Cross Country Inn	513-528-7702
Day's Inn East	513-528-3800
Hampton Inn	513-752-8584
Hilton Garden Inn Cin. NE	513-576-6999
Holiday Inn Eastgate	513-752-4400
Holiday Inn Express	513-831-7829
Lucky Valley Motel	513-752-7222
Motel 6	513-752-2262
Red Roof Inn	513-528-2741

NEARBY HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

The Rankin House, built in 1828, was the home of famed abolitionist, Rev. John Rankin. (shown at right) Located at 6152 Rankin Rd., Ripley, Ohio. 937-392-1627



The Parker House was the home of abolitionist John Parker, a slave who purchased his freedom and settled here in 1845. Located at 330 Front St., Ripley, Ohio. 937-392-4188



Ulysses S. Grant's Birthplace is a basic 2-room frame structure built in 1817. In this home, U.S. Grant - 18th President of the United States, was delivered by Dr. John Rogers in 1822. The grounds and park provide a scenic view of the Ohio River along US Rt. 52. (shown at left) Located at 1551 St. Rt. 232, Point Pleasant, Ohio. 513-553-4911

Ulysses S. Grant's Boyhood Home was built in 1823 by Grant's father, Jesse, when he moved his tanning business and family to Georgetown from Point Pleasant. Located at 219 Grant Ave., Georgetown, Ohio. 937-978-4222