

This slave coin, minted in 1838, was used as “payment” on the Underground Railroad. A slave would give this coin to a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and if the conductor accepted the coin it meant the slave could enter their home and take shelter for the night.

This photograph shows a group of abolitionists. These twenty men were arrested for attempting to free an alleged slave from his captors.

This photograph shows the John Rankin house. Rankin was a Presbyterian minister and educator who devoted much of his life to the antislavery movement. His house has several secret rooms in which fugitive slaves were hidden.

This poster is advertising a reward for finding a lost woman named Emily. She has gone missing and her family is looking for her.

This map shows cities that had stops on the Underground Railroad, as well as the Underground Railroad routes through Ohio that fugitive slaves traveled.

This house in Dayton, Ohio, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Fugitive slaves would enter through a door in the back of the house and hide in the attic.

Quilts contained codes to help slaves on their journey. This quilt is done in the log cabin pattern. Hung on a clothesline or across the front porch, this pattern told slaves that this was a safe house or that they needed to take shelter.

These shackles were used to bind slaves and keep them from escaping. The shackles were attached to the slaves’ legs.