AWESOME

THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN

0. THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN - Story Preface

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Vintage postcard depicting the home of Rev. and Mrs. John Rankin in Ripley. Ohio. The Rankins opened their home to escaping slaves as a "stop" on the Underground Railroad. Image online, courtesy Flickr.

Tice reached the shore first that night, in 1831.

Although his pursuer knew the exact place where his slave had landed, Tice had vanished. The owner searched everywhere, to no avail. It was unbelievable, to him, that no one had seen his runaway.

Enraged, the empty-handed slave owner returned to Kentucky where he told others:

He must have gone on some underground road.

Thereafter, legend has it, the already existing network of free blacks and white <u>abolitionists</u> who broke laws and risked much <u>to help</u> an enslaved people was called the "Underground Railroad."

The first overnight stop on Tice Davids' trip to freedom was likely the <u>Ripley</u>, Ohio home of Rev. and Mrs. <u>John Rankin</u>. There, Tice probably <u>slipped</u> (out of his master's <u>view</u>) into the <u>cellar</u> of the <u>home near</u> the river. He would have stayed there until it was safe to move on.

As states united <u>edged closer</u> to becoming states divided, more and more people fled <u>America's system</u> of chattel slavery. By the time the war between the states was over, at least <u>100,000 people</u> had exchanged <u>bondage</u> for freedom by making an arduous, risk-filled trip on one of the <u>Underground Railroad's routes</u>.

Difficult as they were, however, such flights to freedom would have been no worse than journeys to slavery which kidnapped Africans endured until slave-trading was outlawed in the 19th century.

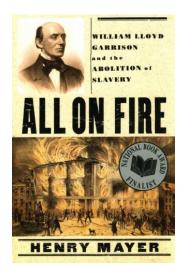
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-UNDERGROUND-IS-BORN-Underground-Railroad

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-UNDERGROUND-IS-BORN-Underground-Railroad

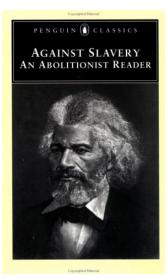
Media Stream



All On Fire - by Henry Mayer

Image online, courtesy the <u>amazon.com</u> website.

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<u>Against Slavery - An Abolitionist Reader</u>

Image online, courtesy the <u>amazon.com</u> website.

View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Against-Slavery-An-Abolitionist-Reader



Ripley, Ohio - Slave Haven

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Slave Protectors - Mr. and Mrs. John Rankin

Image online, courtesy the Ohio Historical Society.

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Rankin Home - Cellar Door

Image online, courtesy Pat's Bike Blog website.

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Rankin Home - Area View

Image online, courtesy the Ohio Historical Society website.

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Rankin Home - Cellar

<u>Image online</u>, courtesy the National Park Service website.

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Rankin Home - Parlor

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons website.

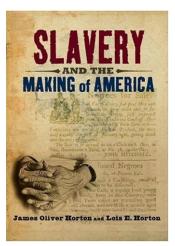
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Ohio River - Near the Rankin Home

 $\underline{Image\ online},\ courtesy\ the\ ohiocivilwar 150.org\ website.$

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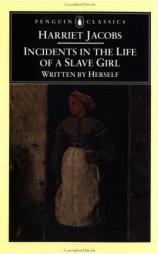


Slavery and the Making of America - by James Oliver Horton

Image online, courtesy the <u>amazon.com</u> website.

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Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl - by Harriet Jacobs

Image online, courtesy the <u>amazon.com</u> website.

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Routes of the Underground Railroad - Map Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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