THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN



0. THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN - Story Preface

1. THE UNDERGROUND IS BORN

2. JOURNEY TO SLAVERY

3. PEOPLE SOLD AT AUCTION

4. SLAVE HOMES

5. SLAVES AT WORK

6. SLAVES ESCAPE

7. LANGUAGE OF THE UNDERGROUND

8. FAMOUS CONDUCTORS

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 abolitionists who broke laws and risked much to help an enslaved people was called the “Underground Railroad.”

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

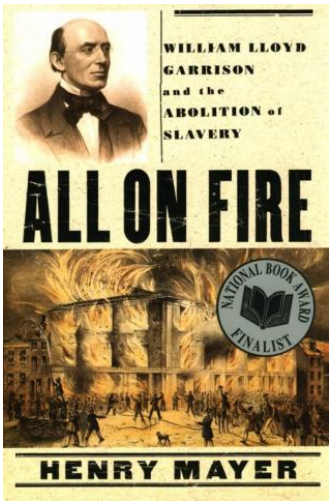
As states united edged closer to becoming states divided, more and more people fled America’s system of chattel slavery. By the time the war between the states was over, at least 100,000 people had exchanged bondage for freedom by making an arduous, risk-filled trip on one of the Underground Railroad’s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

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.

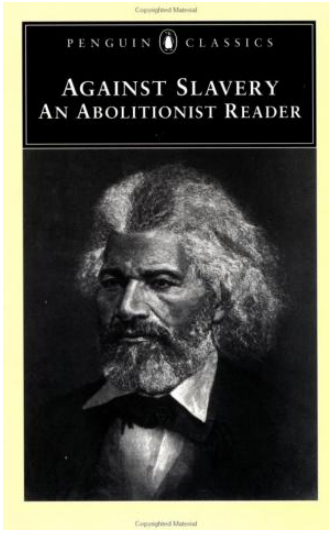
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-UNDERGROUND-IS-BORN-Underground-Railroad

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 amazon.com website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/All-On-Fire-by-Henry-Mayer



Against Slavery - An Abolitionist Reader
Image online, courtesy the amazon.com website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Against-Slavery-An-Abolitionist-Reader



Ripley, Ohio - Slave Haven
Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ripley-Ohio-Slave-Haven



Slave Protectors - Mr. and Mrs. John Rankin
Image online, courtesy the Ohio Historical Society.
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Slave-Protectors-Mr.-and-Mrs.-John-Rankin



Rankin Home - Cellar Door

Image online, courtesy Pat's Bike Blog website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rankin-Home-Cellar-Door



Rankin Home - Area View

Image online, courtesy the Ohio Historical Society website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rankin-Home-Area-View



Rankin Home - Cellar

Image online, courtesy the National Park Service website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rankin-Home-Cellar



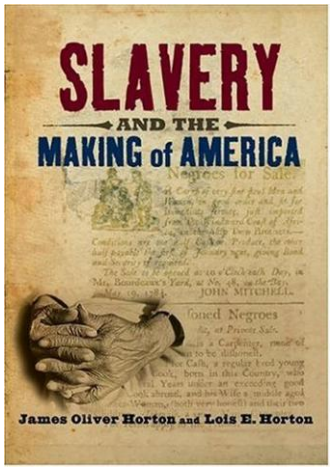
Rankin Home - Parlor

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Rankin-Home-Parlor



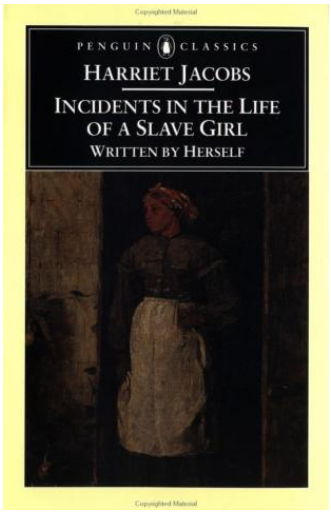
Ohio River - Near the Rankin Home

Image online, courtesy the ohiocivilwar150.org website.
View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ohio-River-Near-the-Rankin-Home



Slavery and the Making of America - by James Oliver Horton

Image online, courtesy the amazon.com website.
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Slavery-and-the-Making-of-America-by-James-Oliver-Horton



[Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl - by Harriet Jacobs]
Image online, courtesy the amazon.com website.
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Incidents-in-the-Life-of-a-Slave-Girl-by-Harriet-Jacobs



[Routes of the Underground Railroad - Map]
Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
View this asset at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Routes-of-the-Underground-Railroad-Map