

## Underground Railroad Timeline

1600: Slaves brought to North America by French and English.

1619: First Africans brought into English colonies including Jamestown Virginia.

1787: Slavery excluded from the states formed out of the Northwest Territory.

1793: Parliament of Upper Canada prohibited importation of slaves.

1793: Fugitive slave law allowed for the reclamation of fugitive slaves from free territories.

Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century: Organized systems to assist runaway slaves formed.

1831: Phrase "underground railroad" became part of American vocabulary.

1830's: First known route in Indiana at Jeffersonville.

1850: The anti-slavery movement was formed to help slaves escape and outwit slave hunters.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

1865: 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified abolishing slavery.

## Read more about it:

*Historic Black American Sites and Structures in Jennings County.* Jennings County Preservation Association, Inc. 1998. [For sale at North American House Vernon In]

<http://ingenweb.org/injennings/pages/histories/memofbigger.html> Excerpts from book *Memories of Bigger Township, Jennings County Indiana* by Mary Jo Schumann Wahlman, Opal Sullivan Shuck, and Lillian Anderson Taylor. 1999. [For sale at North American House Vernon In]

<http://ingenweb.org/injennings/pages/histories/africanamerhist.html> "Anti-Slavery and African Americans in Jennings County" Sheila Kell. 2008-2018.

Furnish, Mark A. "Black Hoosiers and for the Formation of an Antislavery Stronghold in the Central Ohio Valley". *Ohio Valley History*, V.16 No. 3. Fall 2016.

Hanlon, Patrick. "Underground Railroad Conductors: Arvine Quier and His Stories of the Freedom Road in Jennings County Indiana." *Connections (Indiana Historical Society)*. Fall Winter 2019.

Coon, Diane Perrine. *Southeastern Indiana's Underground Railroad Routes and Operations: A project of the State of Indiana DNR DHPA. And the U.S. National Parks Service.* April 1, 2001.

## JENNINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

134 E. Brown St.  
P. O. Box 335  
Vernon, IN 47282  
812-346-8989

<http://www.jenningscounty.org/>

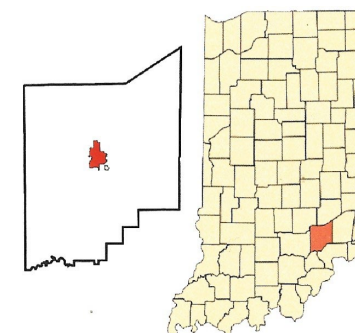
[Jenningshistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:Jenningshistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

### About the Jennings County Historical Society

**The Jennings County Historical Society is a not-for-profit 501© 3 organization. Our Mission is to "present, preserve and document the history of Jennings County."**



# The Underground Railroad in Jennings County, Indiana



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When slaves started escaping across the Ohio River in pursuit of freedom, Jennings County was a natural place to seek refuge and hide away. Highlighted here are some of the “railroad stations” located in Jennings County.



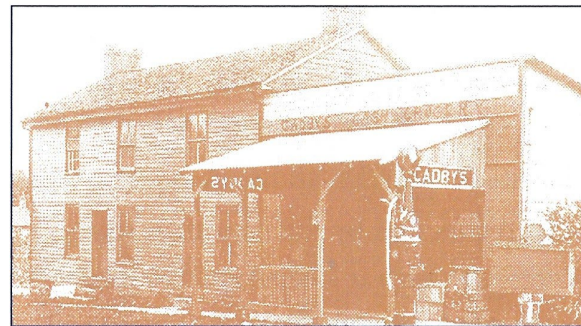
**THOMAS HICKLIN HOME**

An important station in Jennings County was the Hicklin home located south of Vernon. It is a two-story brick home situated about a half-mile south-east of San Jacinto on the bank of Little Graham Creek. This was the home of Thomas Hicklin, a wise and shrewd manager and conductor of this part of the Underground Railroad system. Armed men were always in close touch and ready to defend the home. The Hicklins at times secured the fugitives for several days at a time. The Hicklin House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2023..



**The Daniel Lewis House**

The Daniel Lewis home is located on Road 1050 South in Marion Township. Mr. Lewis made his home available to the runaway slaves, letting them use a hidden bedroom with a bed or chest placed in front of the entry hole. The slaves were also housed in the attic, which had a hidden entryway.



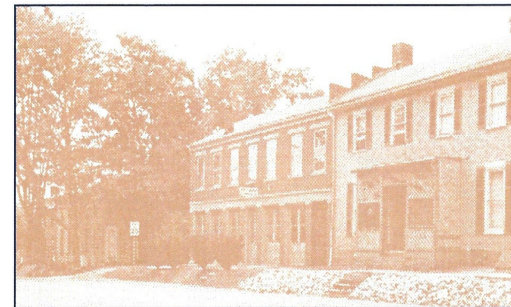
**Sanford Tavern - Vernon**

Sanford Tavern, below, is believed to have been used as an Underground Railroad Station. It was located at the south edge of Vernon.



**Residents gather at the Hege Store**

One Underground Railroad station in Jennings County was located at Hege, in Geneva Township. This settlement was located northwest of Scipio on the old J.M. & I. Railroad. Hege was an integrated community with a store, depot, post office and homes situated mainly along the railroad tracks. The families of Hege opened their homes to the fugitive slaves going north.



**Vernon Row Houses**

In the row houses that still stand west of the Jennings County Courthouse in Vernon, there is an area in the basement that housed runaway slaves traveling the Underground Railroad. There is a 12 x 12-foot room with a fireplace and keeping area. A hole in the floor leads into this area. Vernon townspeople welcomed fugitive slaves with clothing, shoes, food, medical care and safe rest.



Source: Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources.

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/learn-about-topics/underground-railroad/>