

# The Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a secret network that helped enslaved Black people escape to freedom in the years before the Civil War. It wasn't a real railroad, but instead, it was made up of safe routes, hidden places, and kind people who helped those escaping slavery.

The journey usually started in southern states, where slavery was legal, and led to northern states or even Canada, where slavery was banned. Some of the people who helped were abolitionists—people who strongly believed slavery was wrong. But most of the time, it was regular people who took small, brave actions to help those escaping.

A lot of the escape routes went through places near the Ohio River, which separated slave states from free states. One of the free states was Indiana. Many people in Indiana helped those escaping slavery find safety and freedom.

General Hyacinth Lasselle of Vincennes was sued by his slave Polly for her freedom. The Circuit Court of Knox County (in Vincennes) ruled in favor of Lasselle, stating that Polly was still a slave. Polly and her lawyers appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court reversed the ruling and set Polly free. This is the first known legal case related to slavery in Indiana.

James Cockrum, a resident of Oakland City, and his son William Monroe Cockrum, along with sympathizers in Warrick, Gibson, and Pike counties, aided enslaved blacks seeking freedom. James' barn was used to hide fugitives.



Warrick County was part of a major Underground Railroad route extending from the mouth of the Little Pigeon River and then north through Oakland City to Petersburg, Indiana

# Road to Freedom

F Y X M B U H Z C R H R S D N A X M D O  
X R J Z V N H E Z T X W M C B D Y A T E  
E W E Z H I S H D Q A C Q E F B O Y S B  
F Y H E K O S I C M P U V C X R X I X L  
O C P H D N C S P T A L Y A L I U Z O L  
R U T I B O L T T K N Z A I D G C L O S  
T A O R L Z M O E M S E A N S I B O H M  
S N A E B B I R A C J R M I T P R P A V  
U K K F K O S Y K Z D D D D P A D O N L  
M R T J W N Q Z U N Z V O S N P T D L L  
T A S E C R E T U X P Q X W O E G I R F  
E W Z P Q K F O N A Z N P O Q I M I O C  
R L R E V I R A G N O V A W A D A A R N  
P I B B L G O L L R X T N Q D H X I P E  
R V M X R F C T T S E F I F A D B W P V  
Y I X E Y B E H R I V D L N N D T A C G  
B C D A N O S O R A U J H C A C C B M X  
O N A W G T E N S L A V E D C S G B U R  
U U G V A Y R E V A L S Y D E A O X F L  
Q D E R T C O N F E D E R A T E Y N I J

**Amendment**

**Canada**

**Caribbean**

**Civil War**

**Confederate**

**Disguise**

**Enslaved**

**Escape**

**Florida**

**Fort Sumter**

**Freedom**

**History**

**Mexico**

**North Star**

**Plantation**

**Quakers**

**River**

**Secret**

**Slavery**

**Swamp**

**Underground Railroad**

**Union**