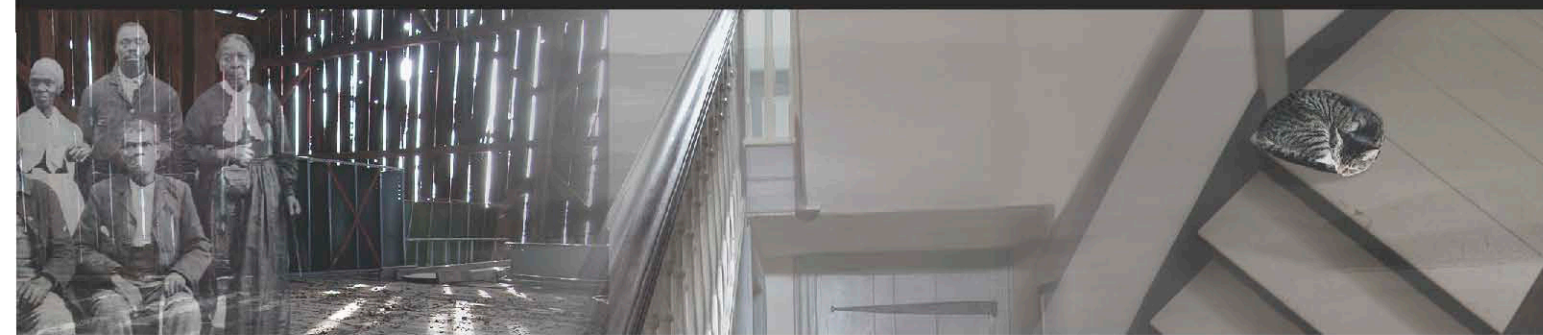


# THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

## LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

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The Underground Railroad was the route north to Freedom for hundreds of thousands of escaped slaves. It was a network of foot trails, rivers, canals, boats, ships, trains, wagons, safe houses and the many people who risks their lives to assist runaway slaves. Lycoming County, PA was at the heart of a region where people helped runaways escape slavery for more than 70 years. Routes led in to the region, governed by terrain and transportation, and led out by many paths, connecting with other Underground Railroad routes to the east, north, and west. The ultimate destination for most, particularly after 1850, was Canada.

### RIVER/CANAL

The Susquehanna River and tributary waterways cut through the mountains, giving a means of passage by canoe and along the stream banks. Daniel Hughes was a timber rafts man, who traveled down the Susquehanna to Maryland by raft and returned on foot with those he was leading to freedom.

In the 1790s the Genessee Road was roughed out of the wilderness, connecting the West Branch and the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, following the route of an existing "Indian" trail. The Ellis and Haines families of Pennsdale used the Genessee Road to transport persons to the Elklands, where they were forwarded to the northwest and northeast.

### WILLIAMSPORT, PA

#### LONG REACH/THOMAS LIGHTFOOT INN

Thomas and Abraham Updegraff, Quaker abolitionists, owned land adjacent to the canal. The Updegraffs used tunnels to transport products from the canal boats and to the tannery and log granary, the only remaining structure of the Long Reach farm, and to the house, which also served as an inn. Former owners of the Thomas Lightfoot Inn said that there was a three-foot-tall void between the second and third floors where slaves could be hidden. The Thomas Lightfoot Inn burned in 2002 and there is now a self-storage unit on the site.

#### DOEBLER HOUSE

When Frederick Douglass spoke in Williamsport on November 14 and 15, 1867, he chose to speak at The Doebler House, a hotel at Fourth and Pine Streets. Its owner, Charles Doebler was probably an agent of the Underground Railroad.

#### EXCHANGE HOTEL

The hotel at 3rd and Mulberry Streets saw the arrival of guests and cargo on canal packet boats and the patronage of local businessmen like Thomas Updegraff. George Roach, Underground Railroad agent and close friend of Daniel Hughes, was a steward on the canal boats.

### FREEDOM ROAD

Daniel Hughes, a part Mohawk conductor on the Underground Railroad, moved to Williamsport in 1828 and married a local African American freewoman, Ann Rotch. Hughes owned a barge and transported lumber from Williamsport on the Susquehanna River to Maryland. Hughes hid runaway slaves in the hold of his barge on his return trip up the Susquehanna River to Lycoming County, where he provided shelter to the runaways in his home on Freedom Road. A series of caves on the Hughes property provided further cover for the runaway slaves.

#### FREEDOM ROAD CEMETERY

Daniel and Annie Hughes gave this land so that black people would have a place to be buried. It holds the grave of at least nine African American Civil War veterans, members of the Hughes family, and possibly as many as 200 graves, total. The cemetery is near the site where Daniel and Annie lived.

#### WILLIAMSPORT & ELMIRA RR

Abolitionist Robert Faries ran the Williamsport & Elmira Railroad. It is rumored that fugitive slaves were transported at night in the baggage car from Williamsport to Trout Run and from Trout Run to Elmira.

### TROUT RUN, PA

#### APKER HOUSE

The Apker farm, home of John and Jane Apker and his wife, has a strong oral history of Underground Railroad involvement. The Apker house is next to a wide field that leads down to Lycoming Creek and a footpath that may have been one route Daniel Hughes and his children used to move fugitives north. The Williamsport & Elmira RR tracks were only 100 feet from the house. It would have been an easy matter for a train to slow down for a person to jump on or off they're in the dead of night.

### MUNCY, PA

#### MCCARTY HOUSE

John McCarty, bachelor son of the Quakers who built the house, occupied this stone house for much of slavery time, and has been described as an Underground Railroad agent. In the basement of the McCarty House, there is a tunnel that once ended at an exterior wall, and it is big enough for a person to squeeze through. On one side of the house is a porch and fake entrance, which does not open and leads nowhere. There are also bars on the basement windows, and it is rumored that there were once shackles in the walls of the basement. It is possible that these were created to confuse and slow down slave catchers.

### PENNSDALE, PA

#### QUAKER HOUSE

Members of the Quaker Meeting House in Pennsdale included many families active in the Underground Railroad and a number of the safe houses in the community surrounding the Pennsdale Meeting House are still standing today. The Meeting House was the spiritual center of the local Friends community and the place where people who had been hidden in nearby homes were gathered and then conducted northward. Built in 1799, the present Pennsdale Friends Meeting House is still home to an active Quaker Meeting. Many Underground Railroad agents are buried in the graveyard behind the Meeting House.

#### WOLF RUN HOUSE

Built in 1792, Wolf Run House stands near a crossroads in the Genessee Road. It was the home of William and Mercy Ellis, who welcomed and concealed people escaping from slavery. Later, their daughter Rachel Ellis and her husband, Jacob Haines, also operated the house as a station on the Underground Railroad.

#### RIDGE FARM

Ridge Farm was the home of Benjamin and Deborah Warner. Deborah was the daughter of James and Elizabeth Kitley, who were believed to have been Underground

Railroad agents. The Kitley farm, now gone, was near Hughesville. Deborah and Benjamin were also the parents of John Warner, who with his wife, Louisa Atkinson Simpson, became Underground Railroad stationmasters at the Mansion House and then the Brick House.

#### JOHN ADLUM HOUSE

This stone house was just across the fields from William and Mercy Ellis' house at Wolf Run, and was built for William's brother. One occupant was John Adlum, who was a friend of Thomas Jefferson. The farm belonged to the Adlum family for 50 years during the time of slavery. John Adlum was not a known abolitionist, but some people speculate that the house may have harbored runaways because Adlum's sisters were close friends of the Ellis family. There is a secret door in the wall of the attic that leads to a large crawl space and a tunnel in the cellar that is said to have gone to a milk house behind the barn.

For More Information:  
Freedom Bound website:  
[www.lycoming.edu/underground](http://www.lycoming.edu/underground)

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