

Making Invisible Histories Visible

The Underground Railroad

Lesson Title: Research Skills Introduction

Materials/Resources:

- PowerPoint explanation to follow for instructions (details in “Learning Tasks”)
- iPads
- Research sites document (can send this to student emails or Canvas for student access to websites)
- Primary v. Secondary Source activity
- MIHV Final Research Packet (Parts 1-2 only) for stations
- Lists of enslavers, abolitionists, freedom seekers, conductors (students can pick from slips of paper with their individual’s name and description on it)
- Omaha Public Library card registration (permission from Parents needed)
- ArcGIS Map Introduction to map the locations the students locate during their research of their chosen individual (city, house/land), last part of research project
- Work packet for research details

Accommodations for ELL students and students with an IEP or 504 Plan (specific to this lesson):

- * Documents translations
- * Extended time
- * Chunking of information

Learning Goal:

I will be able to access research materials by following teacher instructions and producing hardcopy evidence.

Learning Tasks:

Slides 1-4

- Introduce the lesson with slides 1-2
- Go over slide 3-4
- Explain to the students the stations (5) they will complete today
 - Station 1 – Complete Part 1 of the Research Packet by reading the article provided on Robert M. Kirkham (3 hardcopies of information for students to look through)
 - Station 2 - Library Card registration (3 iPads/laptops needed) and written steps for students to navigate OPL.org to get to Newspaper.com (will need to wait to get library card number to go further).
 - Station 3 – Sanborn Map (lay out 6 examples for students to peruse)

- Station 4 – Practicing how to do screenshots
- Station 5 – Complete Part 2 of the Research Packet on Document Analysis – Read through 3 documents and fill in the chart as instructed on the worksheet. (one is the Census of Property)

Slides 5-8

- (5) Go over what they have learning about Robert M. Kirkham from their mini-research exercise
- (6) Show all the other research opportunities available at opl.org
- (7) Discuss the steps they took on Station 2 to find Newspaper.com (enter in own library login information to show further explanation)
- (8-9) Register for Family Search (Ancestry.com) – will need to tap they don't want to be Morman. Write login information in class folder.
- (10) Teacher log into library account and go into NewsBank (following same steps from Station 2) and type in a school address to see results
- (11) Sanborn Maps – reiterate what they learned in Station 3
- Skip slide 12
- (13) – how them the gridding system for land ownership/counties
- (14-15) read over with students
- (16-20) Census – show example and remind students of the census at Station 5
- (22) pass out and explain the “Primary Resource Guide for Omaha History” and peruse

Success Criteria:

I will know I have mastered this when I have filled in the worksheet correctly, asked questions for clarification, and follows internet searches according to instruction.

PRIMARY RESOURCE GUIDE •FOR• OMAHA HISTORY

A list of free, online resources available
for teachers, students, and the public
to use to uncover and share the history of
Omaha's people, places, businesses, and events.

*A John Savage photograph of the old Omaha City Hall on the northeast corner of 18th and Farnam Streets.
From The Durham Museum Archives.*

MULTI-USE SOURCES

OFFERING PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER MATERIALS.

Omaha Public Library

<https://omahalibrary.org/resource-center>

The Omaha Public Library's Resource Center provides a central online space for numerous resources for historical research. Below are some highlighted places to explore. To access you must have an Omaha Public Library card, which is free for Douglas County residents.

- **The Omaha World-Herald Newspaper Archives** 1878 to Present (Resource Center Home > Omaha World-Herald Current & Historical)
- **The Omaha Star Newspaper Archives** 1938 to 2011 (Resource Center Home > Omaha Star Digital Archive)
- **The Catholic Voice, The True Voice and Our Sunday Visitor 1903-2018** Digital archive of the official publication of the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Catholic community encompassing the 23 counties of northeastern Nebraska. (Resource Center Home > Genealogy > The Catholic Voice, The True Voice and Our Sunday Visitor)
- **Newspapers.com** Access to digitized newspapers across the country.
- **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** Shows the homes and buildings in a community by block. Great tool to help date buildings and show an areas growth. Available for all of Nebraska and Iowa. (Resource Center Home > Genealogy > Fire Insurance Maps Online)
- **MyHeritage Library Edition** database, free with a library card or for any Nebraska resident using their drivers license or state ID. Includes birth, death and marriage records from 48 countries, the complete U.S. and U.K. censuses, immigration, military and tombstone records and more than 3 billion family tree profiles. (Resource Center Home > Genealogy > MyHeritage Library Edition)
- Access to **Omaha water permits** that may reveal when a building was first connected to the city water supply. An in-progress index is available at <https://omahalibrary.org/research-your-house-history/> or in person at the Genealogy & Local History Center.
- **Historical Images and Artifacts** from the Omaha Public Libraries Collection. <https://omahalibrary.org/resources-reference-materials>
- In their special collections, accessed in person, they also have an extensive Omaha restaurant menu collection and Trans-Mississippi Exposition collection.

City of Omaha Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission (LHPC)

<https://landmark.cityofomaha.org>

The Omaha LHPC website includes:

- National Register of Historic Places and Local Landmarks nominations providing well-researched and documented history of Omaha's buildings and historic districts.
- Collections of historic postcards, early architectural building plans and photographs taken of Omaha in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Reconnaissance Surveys of Omaha neighborhoods.
- Biographies of local and prominent architects and information on architectural styles throughout the city of Omaha.

Making Invisible Histories Visible (MIHV)

<https://www.ops.org/InvisibleHistory>

Student projects containing oral interviews and primary artifacts sharing Omaha's diverse history. Projects include accompanying lesson plans.

OTHER OMAHA PHOTOGRAPH SITES

Durham Photo Archives:

<https://durhammuseum.org/exhibits-collections/photo-archive>

The Durham Museum's Photo Archive contains more than 1 million images spanning from the 1860s to the 1990s. Teachers can receive digitized copies of photographs for educational purposes at NO COST!

Douglas County Historical Society Collections

<http://www.douglascohistory.org/collection>

The collection ranges from genealogical and family papers to business and organizational records to items such as clothing, decorative arts, photographs, postcards, sheet music and



Sewing tents for WWI soldiers at Scott Tent & Awning at 15th and Howard Streets. From the National Archives Catalog.

menus. Also included is a wealth of published material, including books, pamphlets, and bound newspapers and newspaper clipping files. Keeper of Douglas Counties birth, death, marriage and naturalization records.

History Nebraska (Nebraska State Historical Society)

<https://nebraska.access.preservica.com>

A search under "Omaha" results in more than 14,000 digitized images.

National Archives Catalog

<https://catalog.archives.gov>

A search of Omaha shows more than 35,000 images.

Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/photos/collections/> > Search Omaha

Almost 2,000 prints of Omaha all downloadable and usable at no cost.

OTHER OMAHA AND NEBRASKA NEWSPAPER RESOURCES

<https://nebnewspapers.unl.edu>

The Library of Congress through its Chronicling America Newspapers program has been digitizing newspapers and providing access to them online. The University of Nebraska at Lincoln is the digitizer for Nebraska, and their site has everything they have on Chronicling America but also some additional ones (that did not fall into the Chronicling America parameters) and longer issue ranges in some cases.

Omaha Newspapers Include:

Omaha Bee

Published between 1872 and 1922.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999>

Omaha Monitor

A weekly newspaper from 1915-1928 and continued under the title until sometime in 1929. For most of its existence, it described itself as a "National weekly newspaper devoted to the interests of colored Americans."

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/00225879/>

The Omaha Guide

Published weekly by the Associated Negro Press between 1932 and 1958, featuring a mix of local and national news on African Americans.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn93062828/>

The American – John C. Thompson

A weekly newspaper from 1891-1891 with themes of Nativism and Anti-Catholicism.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/2017270212/>

Pokrok Západu,

A weekly Czech newspaper published between 1871 and 1920

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045348/>

Tägliche Omaha Tribüne,

German newspaper published between 1912 and 1926.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045652/>

OTHER BUILDING RESEARCH RESOURCES

Douglas-Omaha Geographic Information Systems

www.dogis.org

Search a property to get a link to the accessors site that shows when property was built, additional name, lot and block, section, township and range (which comes in handy to find original deeds and abstracts. Click on the Historic Preservation filter on the left-hand side to show all Nationally Registered properties and historic districts then head to the LHPC site <https://landmark.cityofomaha.org/> to look up the nomination. Also has a button that shows you historic aerial pictures of the area from 1938 through now. Great to show how areas have changed over the years.

Douglas County Engineer and Douglas County Register of Deeds

<https://www.dcengineer.org/land-survey-records>

<https://dcregisterofdeeds.org/home>

Using the properties section, township and range can look up survey records (gained at www.dogis.org) original deeds and abstracts.

Bureau of Land Management

<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov>

Access to more than five million Federal land title records issued between 1788 and the present. Includes images of land patents, survey plats and field notes and land status records.



OTHER GENERAL RESOURCES

Dundee Neighborhood Building Permits

The City of Omaha unfortunately destroyed Omaha's building permits in 2006. Permits for the Dundee neighborhood did survive (they were working on their historic nomination at the time) and are available through the neighborhood association website.

<https://dundee-memorialpark.org/dundee-historical-permit-files>

Nebraska Architects and the Buildings they Designed

http://www.e-nebraskahistory.org/index.php?title=Place_Makers_of_Nebraska:_The_Architects

Census Records up to 1950

Census records provide where a person lived, occupation, place of birth and family members and others living at the address.

You can access census records through:

Ancestry.com Set up a free account and have access to 1940 and 1950 census information at no cost. Other years are free using Omaha Public Library computers.

MyHeritage Library Edition and **FamilySearch.org** provide free access. You can access through the Omaha Public Library>Resources>Genealogy.

HathiTrust

<https://www.hathitrust.org>

The HathiTrust is a partnership of almost 100 institutions working together to digitize library and archival collections, and they have made over 5 million books freely available online.

United States Census Bureau

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis.html>

Using real-world Census Bureau statistics to create materials for K-12 students. Explore this site for engaging resources and activities in social studies, math, English, geography, sociology and more. Can target both Omaha and Nebraska statistics.

Google Books

<https://books.google.com>

Google Books offers a free portal to books (and magazines). Google has now digitized over 15 million books, but only those prior to the copyright boundary of 1923 can be viewed in their entirety. Google Books provides partial views of many books published after 1923.

Internet Archive - Text Archive

<https://archive.org/details/texts>

Type Omaha in the search bar. More than 4,000 results. Large historic book and pamphlet portal that contains over six million works and features special collections such as Project Gutenberg, the Million Books Project, the Children's Library, American Libraries, Canadian Libraries, and the Community Books Collection. Great place to find digitized Omaha history books from the late 1880s to the early 1900s.

Digital Public Library

<https://dp.la>

Type Omaha in search bar. More than 10,000 results. Discover 44,449,790 images, texts, videos, and sounds from across the United States. Includes Primary resource packet.



Making Invisible Histories Visible

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Real Estate Transfers.
Typera Kirkham to Lydia J. Hol-
land, a fraction of the southwest
quarter of section 17, town 8, range
14, containing ten acres, for \$800.

Kirkham, Robert M. sale of part of his property 1901

Clipped By:

KAGerber

Thu, May 23, 2024

Death of a Pioneer.

Robert M. Kirkham, one of the best known farmers of this county, died last night at 8:30 o'clock, at his home two miles south of this city, aged 81 years, 2 months and 1 day. He had been in poor health for some time, suffering from no particular complaint, and the cause of his death was old age. He was a native of Coryden, Harrison county, Ind. He learned the trade of carpenter, which he followed for a number of years. He traveled through the south and in 1850 went to California in search of gold. In 1856 he located on his farm south of town and has since resided there. In 1843 he was married to Miss Tryphena Holland, who survived him.

Mr. Kirkham was a gentleman in every sense of the word and was held in the highest estimation by all. In his religious opinions he was a believer in the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Adventists and politically he affiliated with the democratic party.

The funeral will be held tomorrow (Sunday) at 1 p. m., from the family residence.

Obituary for Pioneer- Robert M. Kirkham

Clipped By:

KAGerber

Thu, May 23, 2024

TAX VALUATION OF OTOE COUNTY.

The following is an abstract of the valuation of taxable property in this county, as returned by the Assessor:

Whole number of acres listed in the County,	193,258
Valuation of said lands,	\$903,835
Valuation of town lots,	393,775
Capital invested in merchandise,	75,000
Property invested in manufacture,	2,552
Number of horses,	537
Valuation of same,	31,315
Number of mules and asses,	47
Valuation of same,	2,435
Number of neat cattle,	2,133
Valuation of same,	30,157
Number of Sheep,	77
Valuation of same,	197
Number of Swine,	1,329
Valuation of same,	2,541
Monies and credits,	22,993
Other personal property,	8,042
Stocks and shares,	1,020
Furniture,	4,840
Number of vehicles,	341
Valuation of same,	13,893
Total	\$1,491,334

The County Commissioners were engaged last week in equalizing the assessments, and adding to the list any property not returned in the assessment rolls. The total valuation foots up to over one and a half millions of dollars. The Commissioners meet next month to levy the taxes for the current year. The Territorial tax has already been assessed, as we learn from a letter from the Territorial Auditor to the County Clerk, at three mills on the dollar, which, on the above valuation, will amount to \$4,474.86.

Among other property ordered by the County Commissioners to be added to the list was the following:

C. F. Holly, two negroes,	\$1,000
E. A. DeLonde, two negroes,	1,000
R. M. Kirkham, one negro,	500
A. Majors (number not returned.)	

Part 1: Basic Information

My person's name is:			
They are an: <i>(circle/highlight one)</i>	abolitionist	freedom seeker	enslaver
Birthdate & Location		Death Date & Location	
How was this person connected to the Underground Railroad or enslavement in Nebraska? <i>100-500 words</i>			

Part 2: Sources About My Person

Remember, the information below is just an **overview**. You need to fill out an analysis form for each source you find.

Type of Document	Primary or Secondary Source?	Link to the source	1-sentence summary
	primary		
	secondary		
	primary		
	secondary		
	primary		
	secondary		

Part 3: My Person's Location

Use your research from yesterday to help you find an **address** that has been linked to your person. This could be somewhere they lived or worked, a place they passed through on the Underground Railroad, or where they are buried.

Location Name	
Street Address <i>(Include the city, state, and ZIP)</i>	
County	
Does the location have a website?	URL:

Does the location have a phone number?	Phone:
Can the public visit this location?	Hours:
What is this location currently used for? How has it changed from the 1850s to today?	
How is your person connected to this place? Give as much detail as you can.	
What source did you use? <i>Give the URL or article title (or both).</i>	
Are there other connections between this location and the Lane Trail in general (not just your person)?	

Part 4: StoryMap Text Draft

Use the checklist below to write a draft of the paragraph for your final project. Use the research you did on your person to write your paragraph with **as much detail as possible**.

- Basic information about your person: birth date & location; death date & location; their role in the Underground Railroad/Lane Trail
- Brief information (1-2 sentence) about the Underground Railroad/Lane Trail in Nebraska – who/what/when/where/why?
- Your person’s connection to the Lane Trail/Underground Railroad (2+ sentences)
- Total length: 200-500 words

Part 5: Program Reflection

Answer the questions below about your experience in this class.

1. What did you enjoy the most about this program? It could be a field trip or something/ someone you learned about.
2. What challenges did you face during the research process? How did you overcome them?
3. How will the skills you built in this class help you in high school?
4. What did you think this class would be like when we first started? Now that it's almost over, how would you describe it?
5. How has your understanding of Omaha or Nebraska history changed because of this class?
6. Why do you think it's important to learn about history

Underground Railroad Project

Prominent Figures and Places

Enslavers

Alexander Majors, Born in 1815 in Kentucky. Lived in Nebraska City. 6 enslaved in 1860. Majors, a wealthy freighter and co-founder of the Pony Express, was one of several Nebraska slaveholders from whom slaves escaped without the intervention of John Brown. Three women and two boys disappeared from his home in Nebraska City in June 1860, and were thought, according to the Nebraska City News to have "taken the Underground Railroad to Canada." NSHS-RG2411-3392. On the Network to Freedom Trail.

Charles Frederick Holly (see also Hally), Born 1819 in Vermont. Lived in Nebraska City. 1860 Census shows 2 Enslaved https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Frederick_Holly; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55243723/charles-f_holley. Journey to Freedom book, story of Sale of Holly's slaves pages 140-143. Include Nebraska City Slave Sale in write-up.

Fort Kearny Enslavers in 1860 - John E. Summers, Post Surgeon age 38 born in Virginia, 1 enslaved in 1860 Census. Charlotte age 26, female, born in Missouri. Listed as Mulatto. Domestic. Bio <https://community.village.virginia.edu/unionist/node/615>
Son by the same name became a prominent physician in Omaha https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/omc_photos/15/ <https://durhammuseum.org/dr-john-e-summers/ad> and **William Steele**, Captain of Dragoons age 31 born in New York, 2 enslaved in 1860 Census. Jane Steele age 31, female, born in Kentucky. Domestic. Black. Cannot Read or Write. Israel age 14, Male, born in Florida. Domestic. Black. William Steele – Confederate General [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Steele_\(Confederate_general\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Steele_(Confederate_general)) https://www.google.com/books/edition/General_Stand_Watie_s_Confederate_Indian/9D5xCwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=William+Steele+Confederate+General&pg=PT198&printsec=frontcover

And John Heth, U.S. Sutler, age 27 born in Virginia in 1833. 2 enslaved in 1860 Census Jane Darling age 18, female, born in Kentucky. Mulatto. Domestic James Darling age 15, male, born in Missouri. Mulatto. Domestic

E.A. DesLonde Born in Louisiana in 1829. Appointed by Pres. Buchanan to land office in Neb. City. In Nebraska 1857-1861. Served as a Confederate officer in Civil War. Moved back to New Orleans. 2 slaves listed in tax valuation article Peoples Press (Nebraska City) dated June 21, 1860.

Stephen F. Nuckolls born in 1824 in Virginia: In 1854 Census listed with three enslaved. Celia, Eliza and Shack Grayson. Banker. Merchant. Ran ferry across Missouri. Founder of the original town of Nebraska City on June 10, 1854. 1855 Census listed with five slaves. 1856 Census listed with 4 enslaved. Listed on the Network to Freedom Trail. Also include Heath Nuckolls born in

1831 in Virginia. Brother of Stephen F. Nuckolls. 1854 Census lists he had two enslaved and Wrice D. Schooler born in 1813 in Virginia: Four enslaved (Wife Polly, sister to Stephen and Heath Nuckolls). Use the Journey to Freedom book for information on all three.

Dr. Charles A. Goshen born in 1813 in Virginia, physician. Listed in 1855 with 1 slave. (c) Took part in organizing a Masonic lodge at Nebraska City, May 1855. h) Settled in Johnson Co., 1856.- Tecumseh Chieftain, July 2, 1931.

Col. George Henry "G.H." Nixon

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/13156469/george-henry-nixon>

Registrar at Brownville, Nebraska

Bio in J. Sterling Morton's History of Nebraska book 1907

Jams (James?) Foreman born in Virginia. 1854 Census lists him with 1 enslaved. Listed in Levels. And **Sam Kuper** born in Missouri., farmer; 1854 Census lists him with 1 enslaved. And **Jacob Horner** born in Missouri., farmer; 1854 Census lists him with 2 enslaved. Listed in Levels.

W. Wagoner, born in Missouri. farmer. 1855 Census shows he had 1 enslaved AND **John Price**, born in Virginia, farmer; 1855 Census shows he had 4 enslaved. Lived in Pawnee and Richardson County.

William Wilson, born in 1812 in Kentucky, farmer; In 1856 Nemaha County Census shows he had 4 enslaved. Lived in Brownville.

Robert Price born 1842 in Kentucky, farmer. In 1856 Nemaha County Census shows he had 1 slave. He lived in Brownville.

Richard Brown, Founder of Brownville. Mentioned as having slaves in 1857-1859. Born in 1824 in Tennessee.

Robert M. Kirkham. Born in Indiana in 1819. 2 slaves listed in 1860 Census. 1 slave listed in tax valuation article Peoples Press (Nebraska City) dated June 21, 1860.

Abolitionists

Abraham "Abe" Kagy owned the land known as Camp Creek Cemetery now. His land was a resting point for travelers to and from Kansas territory. In February 1857, John Kagi, John Armstrong, and a man named Mills concealed three Freedom Seekers in the false bottom of a wagon to get them through Nebraska City. Kagi's father, Abe, also helps. Convince ferryman to take them across an icy Missouri River to conductor Dr. Ira Blanchard in Civil Bend, Iowa.

Allen and Barbara Kagy Mayhew, emigrated to Nebraska City/Otoe County in 1854, Barbara Bradway and her first husband, Allen Mayhew, possibly assisted John Kagi and John Brown when they were transporting 12 African Americans along the Underground Railroad. The Mayhews provided refuge and food to the freedom seekers at their cabin in Nebraska City. John Kagi listed in 1855 Census. Mayhews listed in 1854 Census (Ft. Kearny) and 1855 & 1856 Census (Nebraska City). Network to Freedom Site

John Henri Kagi, brother of Barbara Mayhew, and trusted advisor of John Brown, brought freedom seekers to the Mayhew cabin on their way to freedom. What Edward Mayhew remembered as 14 was 12 escaping slaves that had been freed by John Brown, John Kagi, and several others from three slave owners in Missouri in December of 1858. Brown and Kagi took the escaping slaves to Canada for freedom, reaching their destination in March of 1859. The men continued their abolitionist activities and later that year, Kagi accompanied John Brown and several of Brown's other loyal followers to carry out the raid of the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, aimed at obtaining weapons for a slave uprising. Kagi was shot to death during the raid on October 17, 1859, at the young age of 24. *(John grew older he changed the spelling of his last name to the Swiss spelling of the name to Kagi. The Kagy name is also sometimes spelled, K-A-G-E-Y. Raymond E. Dale, Otoe County Pioneers: A Biographical Dictionary. Part V (Lincoln, 1961), 1394, 1395)*

Stephen Wilkenson "Squire" Kennedy, Brownville/Nemaha County area. Abolitionist. A Missourian but sheltered Brown's 12 Freedom Seeker overnight. Story in folders.

Samuel G. Daily was elected representative of the Republican party in August 1859. A Peru/Nemaha County lawyer. Introduced bill to abolish slavery in Nebraska, Nov. 1, 1858.

David and Anne Dorrington, Falls City/Richardson County. English immigrants, abolitionists, and friends to John Brown. Settled in Falls City in September 1857. On Network to Freedom Trail.

Lockwood Family - David and Martha, Eugene V. Lockwood (son) and Alice A. Lockwood Minick (daughter) had a station west of Nemaha City/Nemaha County. The family was part of the first group to use the Lane Trail in July 1856. Were the advance guard, under the charge of Martin Stowell. 65 young men, with three wagons, were ferried over the Missouri. Alice married John L. Minick as seen in 1856 Census.

Daniel H. Wheeler, helped Freedom Seekers in St. Joseph County, Michigan. Daniel H. Wheeler was born in Flowerfield, St. Joseph County, Michigan in 1834. In 1856, migrated to Nebraska. Wheeler settled in Plattsmouth, Cass County and held various clerking jobs until 1860 when he joined a local hardware firm. In 1859 Wheeler established a real estate business and also maintained a hardware business in Plattsmouth. He was Cass County Treasurer from 1861 to 1862. In 1862 he was elected Justice of the Peace and in 1864, was appointed to the office of County Judge. He studied law in Plattsmouth and was admitted to the Bar in 1868. This same year Wheeler was elected Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture and held that office until 1881, in this capacity he was heavily involved in the Nebraska State Fair. He was elected Mayor

of Plattsmouth in 1869 and in 1873 he was Secretary of the State Senate. In 1885 he moved to Omaha where he and his son established the insurance firm of Wheeler and Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler was married to Charlotte A. Lewis in 1857, and they had five sons: Ernest O., Frank L., Daniel H. Jr., Myron E., and William H. Daniel H. Wheeler died in Omaha in 1912.

Houston (Huston) Russell, Abolitionist, north of Nemaha City/Nemaha County. Although a Missourian, he was a radical abolitionist. Took care of more freedom seekers than any other agent at Nemaha. Hid freedom seekers in a cave. Listed in 1856 Census in Brownville.

James Henry Lane, Falls City/Richardson County. Born 1814. Died 1866, Abolitionist. Founder of the Lane Trail and one of five founders of Falls City.

Elmer S. Dundy was born in 1830 in Ohio. Falls City/Richardson County. Federal District Judge, against slavery. Once dressed a freedom seeker in blankets to look like a Native American to escape (Alice Minick).

W.W. Buchanan born in 1819 in New York. Had a station about a mile north of Falls City/Richardson County. According to Judge Reavis of Falls City, "he got into some trouble with the fraternity and was dismissed from their service." Accused of slipping freedom seekers over into Missouri to get the reward offered for their recapture. Listed in Nebraska City in 1856.

Sewel Jamison, Born in 1829 in Delaware. Falls City/Richardson County. Abolitionist, editor Broad Axe, early Falls City newspaper

Brothers John Albyne Burbank (born in 1828 in Indiana) **and Joseph Henry Burbank** (Born in 1834 in Indiana) and **William McFarland**, Abolitionists, Falls City/Richardson County. Not a lot on Joseph and William but all mentioned in Alice Minick's article on History in Nebraska. Let's group.

Hezekiah B. Strong, Abolitionist, Nemaha City/Nemaha County. In 1860 Census he has N.B. by Edward Ofelt (sp?) a 14-year-old male listed in his household. Free Black?

John Boulware and son John B. Boulware – operators of the first ferry of the morning. It was told that they appeared before dawn carrying Freedom Seekers to Iowa. Listed in 1854 Census (Ft. Kearny) and 1855 and 1856 Census (Nebraska City/Otoe County).

Wayne Overturf, "John Brown's Cabin at Nebraska City," Nebraska History 21 (1940): 93-100

John Boulware – was the operator of the first ferry of the morning. Appeared before dawn carrying Freedom seekers to Iowa. (This is disputed by historian James Potter - "Nearly always the first trip in the morning of John Boulware's ferry [across the Missouri River] carried a load of slaves." Even if a "load" consisted of only two slaves and the ferry ran daily for only six months of the year, more than 1,000 Freedom seekers would have thus been transported from Nebraska City in just three years, a number that would

strain the credulity of even the most fervent believers in an active Nebraska branch of the Underground Railroad.)

Calvin Chapman and C.N Karstens, Abolitionists in. Nebraska City/Otoe County. Not a lot on either one but both told stories of help with freedom seekers.

Jacob Dawson, Abolitionist, editor of Wyoming Telescope. Listed in Otoe County, Wyoming Census in 1855 and 1856.

Freedom Seekers

John Flanagan (1791-1905). A slave to a Virginia family. At age 74, was released at the beginning of the Civil War. Flanagan took care of Gen. Grant's horses at Fort Donelson. Moved to Omaha in 1866. Owned 160 acres between 30th and 33rd, Spalding and Ames. Oldest person in Nebraska he died at 114. Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha

Lewis Washington, buried at Forest Lawn. Freedom Seeker. Abolitionist and Underground Railroad Activist. In Omaha 1880-1898. On National Park Service's Network to Freedom Trail. Application will have extensive information on him.

George Conway (1847-1939) of Omaha. Born in Medicine Hat, Missouri. Served under Ulysses S. Grant as a soldier during the Civil War and as a chef as he traveled around the world. Came to Omaha in 1867 from St. Louis on a steamer ship.

Samuel and Jane Harper – part of John Brown's 12 Freedom Seekers he took through Nebraska and they successfully ended up in Windsor, Canada.

Thomas Brown (1829-1923) Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha. Born Jan. 15, 1829 in Lexington, Kentucky. In a 1938 Federal Writer's Project interview, Black attorney Harrison J. Pinkett said Thomas Brown (1829-1923) was here in 1842, a slave who was brought on a buffalo hunt by his enslaver from Missouri. Pinkett said Brown made an epic escape into Canada (London). Once slavery was abolished, Brown made his home in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for many years. In 1905, he moved to Omaha to live with his daughter until his death in 1923.

Edwin Overall (1835-1901) of Omaha—Edwin Overall (1835-1901), figured prominently in the early years. Born into slavery near St. Louis, he was an abolitionist who recruited Blacks in Chicago during the Civil War to enlist in the Union Army. In Omaha, he was a leader in ending the city's practice of a separate school for Black children in 1872. He already was the first Black man in a federal government position in the state when, in 1869, he was appointed a general delivery clerk in the U.S. Post Office. Aside from a few months working for a mining company near Plattsmouth, he was with the post office until just before his death. Overall appears to be the first Black man to run for public office in Omaha. He lost his bid for the Omaha school board in 1874 when he was known as E.R. Williams. He later changed his last name upon receiving a sizable inheritance from his birth father, whose last name was Overall. He

unsuccessfully ran for the state legislature in 1890 and the Omaha city council in 1893. Burial Site at Prospect Hill in Omaha <https://northomahahistory.com/2020/12/22/biography-of-edwin-overall-of-north-omaha/>

William J. Johnson – former slave. Educated at Oberlin College. Taught in Missouri, St. Joseph- 1872. Born Feb. 4, 1850. Lived in Omaha.

S.J. July Miles. (1849-1941) Born a slave near Montgomery, Alabama. Ran away and joined the northern army during the Civil War. Got a job on Gen. Grenville Dodge’s personal train car. Early member of Mount Moriah Church. Last African American Civil War soldier in Omaha when he died in 1941. <https://www.ops.org/Page/1793> Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha

Josiah Waddle, Civil War Veteran, (1849-1939) Born a slave in Springfield, Missouri, in 1849, he joined the Union Army as a groom and drummer boy with the 79th U.S. Colored Infantry at age 14. He participated in battles at Fort Gibson, Cabin Creek and Helena in Arkansas. Waddle lived in Topeka, Kansas, after the war. He moved to Omaha in 1880 and became the first African-American barber in Nebraska. He started a 15-piece band and orchestra called “Waddle’s Ladies.” He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic Post 7 in Omaha until his death in 1939, age 89. He is buried at Forest Lawn. <https://www.ops.org/Page/1793> Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha. <https://northomahahistory.com/2022/10/17/a-biography-of-josiah-waddle/>

Henry Daniel Smith, born in Maryland in 1835, still living in Omaha in 1913, and working in his trade of broom maker was one escaped slave who entered Nebraska via the Underground Railroad.

Sallie Sylvester (1812-1920) Born a slave to James Peary in Virginia. Sold and taken to St. Louis in 1858. She escaped to St. Joseph Missouri in 1860. Oldest person in Omaha when she died at 108. Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/204191236/sallie-sylvester>

Anderson Bell (1838-1903) of Omaha— Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha <https://northomahahistory.com/2021/01/11/biography-of-anderson-bell/>

Phillip King (1822-1888) of Omaha

Frank Walker (1813-1915) Born in Bath County, Virginia. Owned by three enslavers over the course of 50 years. Claimed to have carried a barrel of gold on his shoulder for Jeff Davis from a hotel in Selma, Alabama to the depot. Permanently damaged his neck. Burial Site at Fairview Cemetery in Council Bluffs

Cyrus D. Bell (1848-1925)—Born into slavery in Jackson, Mississippi. Came to Omaha in 1868. Started Afro American Sentinel newspaper. Was pro-Democratic. Believed Blacks should not only support the Republican Party.

Ophelia Clenlans (c1841-1907) of Omaha—Local political activist and community leader. Burial Site at Forest Lawn in Omaha (Unmarked grave) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ophelia_Clenlans

John Taylor (1847-1912) of Omaha—Said to be the “only slave” in Omaha when he died. He was owned by Congressman Burns’ parents in St. Joseph, Missouri. Served in Civil War. Became a policeman in Atchinson, Kansas, then moved to Omaha. Burial Site at Forest Lawn

Henry H. Bradley and parents. Mother was a servant for an early territorial senator