

Lesson Title: Comic Strip

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Title: Unit 5 – Slavery & Sectionalism

Concept Based (Enduring Understanding, Essential Question, Key Concept):

Students will create a depiction of the life of Stephen Nuckolls in a comic strip format with support from Primary and Secondary resources about his life as an enslaver in Nebraska City.

Materials/Resources:

- Comic Strip templates
- Art supplies (markers, colored pencils, crayons, pens, pencils)
- Notes on Stephen Nuckolls history as an enslaver

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 (content standards/indicators):

I will be able to create a comic strip about Stephen Nuckolls with specific details to his life as an enslaver in Nebraska City.

Learning Tasks (content standard broken down into manageable tasks):

Stephen Nuckolls

- History as an enslaver
- Electronic or verbal presentation of history

Comic Strip

- School appropriate example
- Rough draft writing (storyline, picture ideas) on templates, teacher approval
- Proofread
- Factual content from provided literature

Final Draft

- Use art supplies
- Use templates
- Proofread

Success Criteria:

*I will know I have mastered this when I depict the life story of Stephen Nuckolls in picture and scripted formats with clarity in picture and historical information.*

**Procedures and Routines:**

Hand Raising; backward count from 5 to quiet students, backward count from 20 for clean-up of materials; non-verbal cues (restroom, help/answer/ask, sharpen pencil, nurse, tissue, throw away trash), Tardy Slips, Pencil/ruler borrowing sign out

**Instructional Plan for a 90-minute Block:**

5 minutes	<b>Anticipatory Activity</b> <i>Opening. Learning Goal, Essential Question, Success Criteria. Overview of today's lesson, anticipatory activity to engage learners from the start.</i>	
10 minutes	<b>Modeled Instruction:</b> Teacher doing the work. <i>Introduction of Concept/New Knowledge. Direct instruction, demonstration, directed reading, multimedia.</i>	<b>Shared Instruction:</b> Teacher and students doing the work together. <i>Incorporate checks for understanding, class discussion, student questioning/predicting, iPad integration as instructional resource.</i>
10 minutes	<b>Guided Practice:</b> Students doing the work with teacher support. <i>Application and Use of Knowledge. Student engagement strategies: hands-on activity, small-group projects, problem-solving activity, laboratory experiments. iPad integration. Teacher provides feedback. Build in a transition to next portion of lesson.</i>	
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10-15 minutes	<b>Independent Practice:</b> Students doing the work. <i>Student Practice. In-class independent work, assignment, assessment. iPad integration.</i>	
5-10 minutes	<b>Summary/Reflection</b> <i>Closing. Summaries, reflections, journal writing, report outs, ticket out the door.</i>	

Reference: Gregory, G., & Herndon, L. E. (2010). *Differentiated instructional strategies for the block schedule*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

Name:

Date:

Block:

**Freedom Seeker:** \_\_\_\_\_


**HORSE THIEVES AND [REDACTED] STEALERS.**  
**FIT ASSOCIATES, BO'N COMPANIONS!**

**OLD JOHN BROWN,**  
Of Ossawatimie, passes through  
Nebraska City with a troupe of  
[REDACTED] and a Gang of Horse  
Thieves.

**READ! READ!**  
**YE WHO ARE ATTACKED**  
**WITH [REDACTED] PHOBIA!**

John Brown, Captain John Brown, old John Brown of Ossawatimie, the "old John Brown" who, Gerritt Smith, when leading on the cohorts of the simon pure Abolitionists in the last campaign of New York, being a little at the outs with the straight Black Republicans, declared, had done more for the freedom of Kansas than the whole Republican party, passed through this city late last Friday evening at the head of a herd of stolen [REDACTED] taken from Southern Missouri, accompanied with a gang of horse thieves of the most desperate character. They had a large number of stolen horses in their possession—two of which were taken and are now held by the Deputy Sheriff of this county.

There is an appropriateness and fitness in [REDACTED] stealers being associated with horse thieves that the rankest Black Republican cannot fail to appreciate. A fellow feeling makes them wondrous kind. Their practices are similar, and it is not to be wondered at that they exhibit little discrimination in the selection of their chattels. If the amount of the property stolen is to regulate the heinousness of the crime, 't must be confessed the profession of the horse thief is the more liberal and dignified calling.

Ossawatimie Brown and the notorious Montgomery have carried on their depredations during the last few months in a high handed manner. Brown and his precious gang have eluded their pursuers; they have gotten into Iowa and may now be considered as safely on "tother side of Jordan."

We clip from the Daily St. Joseph Gazette an account of their escape from Kansas:

*This document has been modified due to the use of a racial slur. While this slur was commonly used in this era, we must recognize the weight and trauma it carries in today's society.*

**LATE FROM KANSAS.**

**FOUR MEN TAKEN PRISONERS BY OSSAWATTAMIE BROWN!**

A gentleman from Atchison, upon whose statements we can place the utmost confidence, informed us late last evening, of some new outrages in Kansas. He states that Ossawatimie Brown, with eleven runaway slaves, had been surrounded by a posse of men under the U. S. Marshal, in a little town called Eureka. The Marshal did not deem his force sufficient to attempt a capture of Brown, and sent to Atchison City for a reinforcement. Fourteen men left this late evening on Sunday evening to join the Marshal, whose whole force, counting the men from Atchison, numbered but twenty-five, and with which he marched to Eureka to accomplish his purpose. On reaching this point, however it was discovered that Brown had about seventy-five men well armed, besides the eleven negroes, and not deeming it safe to make an attack upon him, they commenced a retreat. One of the Marshal's party named Wm. Green, lost a horse in the retreat, and three others, Dr. Hereford, Chas. Deitman and Joseph McVey, volunteered to go back with him to Eureka to recover it. They were set upon by Brown's men when near that place and all taken prisoners, and are now in his camp. The Marshal has sent to Ft. Leavenworth for troops to assist him in arresting Brown, if possible, before his escape into Nebraska.

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# **When a Chicago Street Mob Rescued a Fugitive From Slavery**

On the eve of the Civil War, Chicagoans rallied to protect 20-year-old Eliza Grayson.

BY DENNIS RODKIN

JUNE 24, 2019, 11:16 AM



The downtown intersection where, half a century earlier, Eliza Grayson was wrested from her captors. **Photo: Chicago History Museum, ICHI-081641, Raymond W. Trowbridge, photographer**

In November 1860, Chicago wasn't yet known as a theater town, but a remarkable piece of stagecraft — front-page news in its day but now all but forgotten — played out on its streets: A crowd surrounded a woman and, poof, she vanished.

The woman in question, 20-year-old Eliza Grayson, had good reason to want to disappear: She was a fugitive from slavery. Two years earlier, she and her sister had escaped their slaveholder, aided by a free black man from Iowa. Grayson then made a harrowing 500-mile journey from Nebraska, likely taking refuge in safe houses on the Underground Railroad. She'd been among the first enslaved people to arrive in Nebraska, which had not decided whether to allow slavery, when she'd been brought there from Virginia by a man named Stephen Nuckolls. He was now after her.

Though Illinois was a free state, it was hardly a haven for black people, who represented less than 1 percent of Chicago's population of around 112,000. Just over two years before the Emancipation Proclamation, the law of the land that Abraham Lincoln called home barred any out-of-state black person from staying in Illinois for more than 10 days — and prohibited all blacks from voting or even gathering in groups of three or more.

**The Eliza Grayson Case.**

*Messrs. Editors:*—The recent attempt to capture the alleged fugitive Eliza Grayson by one Jake Newsome, a pretended Deputy U. S. Marshal, has opened up a number of new features in the Fugitive Slave Law.

The warrant, it is said, was sworn out at Springfield in this State. The Commissioner there directs that the fugitive shall be brought before him. Said fugitive is to be taken by force away from all possible chance for defence—away from every person who could possibly render her friendship or assistance,—and this is to be done, not by any Marshal or United States officer, but by the notorious Jake Newsome, who pretends to act under authority from Nuekolls the claimant. Of course he claims to have legal papers from officers in Chicago, but these officers deny any responsibility in the matter, and it is finally ascertained that said Newsome was not sworn into office. And to make the case still more clear, it is conceded on all hands that said fugitive ran away from the free Territory of Nebraska where it is not pretended there was any law for slavery.

Now would it not be well to know for once what can be done under that Law. If free persons of color in this city are liable at any mo-

A *Chicago Tribune* article covering the

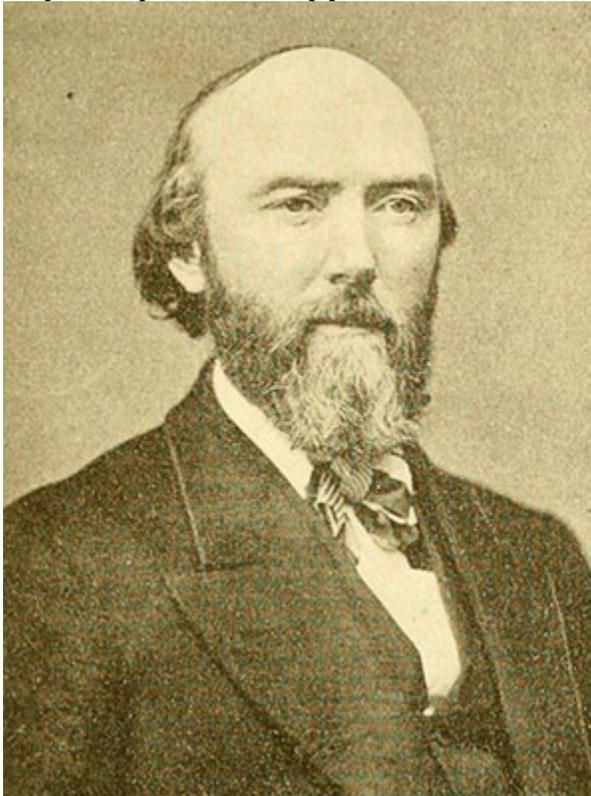
incident. Photo: *Chicago Tribune/newspapers.com*

Grayson had found work as a servant in a Clark Street brothel. She was, the *Chicago Daily Tribune* would later report, “a stout and sharp girl, and her services as a domestic much prized.” Working in the demimonde of a rowdy city would seem the ideal way to escape being seen, but it turned out that she wasn’t invisible to people who knew money could be made capturing fugitive slaves. “In 1859 and 1860, negro catchers were particularly active in this locality,” Weston Goodspeed wrote in his 1909 book *History of Cook County, Illinois*. He went on to quote a newspaper article from Grayson’s time whose language evokes the grotesque realities of the era: “The goodly number of fine fat chattels most provokingly free about this vicinity, and their market value down the river, are two circumstances that are constantly inviting the scant moral sense of the ‘nigger stealers.’ ”

Unthinkingly, Grayson “told her story of escape and her former condition to one of the unfortunate white females of the house,” the *Tribune* reported. That woman and some cohorts pressed Grayson for more information. “By

dint of questioning and threats, they ascertained her master's name and residence," the *Chicago Daily Journal* reported. "They at once opened a correspondence with him, informing him of her whereabouts, and offering to deliver her up for a sum." For good measure, they proposed to "knock her down, render her senseless, and then put her in the box of a pedlar's wagon, and carry her out of the State in this manner."

Nuckolls opted instead to come to Chicago in person to capture Grayson, whom he valued at \$1,200. He arrived in the city bearing an arrest warrant, obtained in Springfield, but the federal commissioner in Chicago, Philip A. Hoyne, had no deputies who were willing to serve it. Bound by the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which required officials in free states to cooperate in the forcible return of fugitives to their slaveholders, Hoyne deputized a man named Jake Newsome, whom the *Tribune* would describe as an unprincipled kidnapper for hire.



Stephen Nuckolls (left) and Chancellor Jenks (right)Photos: (Nuckolls) Tk; (Jenks) Tk

On the evening of November 12, Newsome and Nuckolls seized Grayson. Screaming as the two men dragged her along Clark Street, she attracted the attention of onlookers both black and white. Some accounts of what happened next describe a prominent abolitionist, Chancellor Jenks, arriving on the scene to try to wrest Grayson from her captors' hands. These

accounts, published after Jenks died in 1903, cast him as a quick-thinking hero who happened, improbably, to stumble across the kidnapping in progress. It seems more likely that Jenks, an attorney and real estate investor, got word of the abduction from a fellow abolitionist, George Anderson, one of the deputy sheriffs who had refused to serve the arrest warrant.

Whatever the exact circumstances, Nuckolls and Grayson were both charged with disorderly conduct and locked up at the Armory police station on the southwest corner of Adams and Franklin Streets, where the Willis Tower now stands. Contemporary news accounts suggest that the charge was manufactured by Anderson — possibly in collusion with Jenks and a like-minded justice of the peace named Calvin De Wolf — so that Grayson could be held in safety while the abolitionists set about summoning a crowd to the Armory.

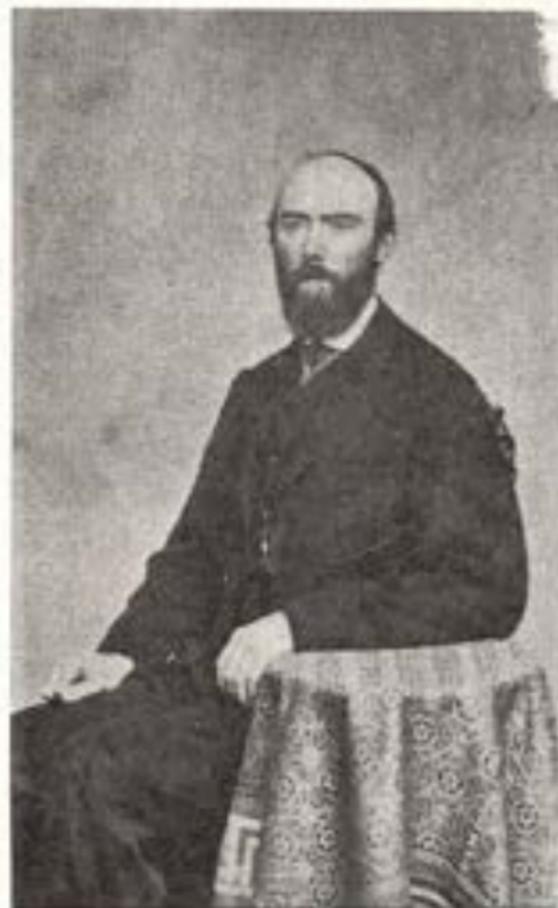
When Anderson went to transfer Grayson from the Armory lockup to a nearby jail, the *Journal* reported, “he had hardly got out of the door with his charge before she was wrenched from his grasp.” The report goes on to remark that Anderson “did not make a very sturdy resistance, and when the crowd dispersed, Eliza Grayson had disappeared. ... With the rapidity of lightning, she was hurried down Adams Street by the agents of [the Underground Railroad] and removed to a place of safety.” Most accounts say she was put on a boat to Canada.

News of Grayson’s escape made its way to President James Buchanan. He was said to be furious and wrote an angry letter to the U.S. attorney in Chicago, urging severe penalties for those involved. Buchanan was a Northerner who opposed slavery but believed that the Constitution permitted it. In his inaugural address, he’d endorsed the Supreme Court’s *Dred Scott* decision, which ruled that the descendants of enslaved people did not have citizenship rights. In the end, with Buchanan’s term nearing its end and Lincoln soon to take his place, nothing came of Buchanan’s tirade.

What happened to Nuckolls? One account, in a book called *Pioneer Settlers of Grayson County, Virginia* — probably exaggerated to arouse sympathy for the slave owner — reported that police officers came into his cell planning to hang him. “He placed himself in one corner of the room, drew

his revolver and said to them, ‘the first man that opens that door, I will shoot him down.’ They did not go in, but he had to pay \$22,000 to get out of the jail.” Other observers claimed that the police had to disguise Nuckolls as one of them in order to whisk him out past the angry crowd. Whatever his immediate fate, Nuckolls soon returned to Nebraska. Today there’s a county named for him, and in Nebraska City there’s a park called Nuckolls Square on land he donated.

As for Eliza Grayson, little is known of her life after her escape. She appears to have passed out of living memory with no monument to remember her by.



**Stephen Friel Nuckolls**



**Mrs. Lucinda Nuckolls**

## Names of Heads of Families.

Names of Heads of Families.	White Males of 21 and Up years	White Males of 15 & upwards	Males under 15	Females of 15 and upwards	Females under 15	Slaves	Free colored Males	Free colored Females	Blind	Deaf and Dumb	Insane	Not Declared Intemperate	President or place where subject	Profession or occupation	Where Born	Remarks
Colborns Martin	1			1									Delaware	Farmer	Pa	
Henry Cowles	1		2	2	1								"	Mechanic	W. Va	
Wm. Wallace Pierson	1												"	Teacher	Pa	
Mitchell & Truitt	1	1											"	"	Pa	
James Galt	1												"	Merchant	Pa	
G. M. L. Coats	1												"	"	Pa	
Wm. H. Coats	1												"	Farmer	Pa	
Grand Water	1												"	Merchant	Pa	
Mar. Galt	1		2	2	1								"	Farmer	Pa	
C. H. Price	1			1									"	Ally	Pa	
M. P. Dixon	1	2	11	5	1								"	Farmer	Pa	
John All	1												"	"	Pa	
Andrew Grajnc	1	1											"	"	Pa	
Francis Galt	1												"	"	Pa	
Samuel M. Johnston	1												"	All	Pa	
A. W. Ross	1		1	1									"	Merchant	Pa	
George Bell	1	1	11	1	3								"	Farmer	Pa	
Stephen F. Anckholt	1		1	1									"	Farmer	Pa	
James W. Anckholt	1	1											"	Black	Pa	
David A. Anckholt	1	1											"	"	"	
Math. Anckholt	1	1											"	Farmer	"	
David Woodruff	1												"	Farmer	"	
Wm. D. Schow	1		11	1	2								"	"	Pa	
Wm. B. Hall	1	1	3	1	3								"	"	Pa	
C. C. Hall	1												"	"	"	
John Clements	1		1	1									"	Mechanic	"	
	1												"	"	"	