

#### **William Still**

# The Underground Railroad (Illustrated Edition)

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<b>AUCTION IN</b>	RICHMOND,	ON THE	FIRST I	O YAC	ΙF
JANUARY, 18	<u>353</u>				

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**DAUGHTER PRISCILLA** 

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**SUSAN BROOKS** 

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**CHARLES GILBERT** 

LIBERTY OR DEATH

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FULL PARTICULARS OF THE ABDUCTION, ENSLAVING AND ESCAPE OF DAVIS. ATTEMPT TO SEDUCE HIM TO SLAVERY AGAIN

**COPY OF FIRST ORDER OF COMMITMENT** 

**COPY OF DISCHARGE** 

**COPY OF ORDER OF RE-COMMITMENT** 

SAMUEL GREEN ALIAS WESLEY KINNARD, AUGUST 28th, 1854 TEN YEARS IN THE PENITENTIARY FOR HAVING A COPY OF UNCLE TOM'S CABIN

AN IRISH GIRL'S DEVOTION TO FREEDOM

**FIRST LETTER** 

SECOND LETTER

THIRD LETTER

**FOURTH LETTER** 

"SAM" NIXON ALIAS DR. THOMAS BAYNE
SUNDRY ARRIVALS

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**SLAVE TRADER HALL IS FOILED** 

THE PROTECTION OF SLAVE PROPERTY IN VIRGINIA A
BILL PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR THE
SLAVE PROPERTY OF CITIZENS OF THIS
COMMONWEALTH

**ESCAPING IN A CHEST** 

ISAAC WILLIAMS, HENRY BANKS, AND KIT NICKLESS MONTHS IN A CAVE, — SHOT BY SLAVE-HUNTERS

SEPTEMBER 28, 1856 ARRIVAL OF FIVE FROM THE EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND

SUNDRY ARRIVALS, ABOUT AUGUST 1ST, 1855

**DEEP FURROWS ON THE BACK THOMAS MADDEN** 

"PETE MATTHEWS," ALIAS SAMUEL SPARROWS "I

MIGHT AS WELL BE IN THE PENITENTIARY, &C

"MOSES" ARRIVES WITH SIX PASSENGERS

ESCAPED FROM "A WORTHLESS SOT" JOHN ATKINSON

WILLIAM BUTCHER, ALIAS WILLIAM T. MITCHELL "HE WAS ABUSEFUL"

"WHITE ENOUGH TO PASS"

ESCAPING WITH MASTER'S CARRIAGES AND HORSES HARRIET SHEPHARD, AND HER FIVE CHILDREN, WITH FIVE OTHER PASSENGERS

EIGHT AND A HALF MONTHS SECRETED WASHINGTON SOMLOR, ALIAS JAMES MOORE

ARTHUR FOWLER, ALIAS BENJAMIN JOHNSON SUNDRY ARRIVALS

SUNDRY ARRIVALS ABOUT JANUARY FIRST, 1855
SLAVE-HOLDER IN MARYLAND WITH THREE COLORED
WIVES JAMES GRIFFIN ALIAS THOMAS BROWN
CAPTAIN F. ARRIVES WITH NINE PASSENGERS

<b>OWEN AND OTHO</b>	TAYLOR'S	<b>FLIGHT</b>	WITH H	ORSES,	<b>ETC</b>
THREE BROTHERS,	TWO OF	THEM V	VITH WI	VES AND	<u>)</u>
CHILDREN					

**HEAVY REWARD** 

CAPTAIN F. ARRIVES WITH FOURTEEN "PRIME ARTICLES" ON BOARD

SUNDRY ARRIVALS — LATTER PART OF DECEMBER, 1855, AND BEGINNING OF JANUARY, 1856

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WILLIAM AND ELLEN CRAFT FEMALE SLAVE IN MALE ATTIRE, FLEEING AS A PLANTER, WITH HER HUSBAND AS HER BODY SERVANT

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THOMAS CLINTON, SAUNEY PRY AND BENJAMIN
DUCKET PASSED OVER THE U.G.R.R., IN THE FALL OF
1856

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ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND

ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., etc., 1857 GEORGE CARROLL, RANDOLPH BRANSON, JOHN CLAGART, AND

WILLIAM ROYA	٩N	
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ARRIVAL FROM UNIONVILLE, 1857 ISRAEL TODD, AND BAZIL ALDRIDGE

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1857 ORDEE LEE, AND RICHARD J. BOOCE

ARRIVAL FROM CAMBRIDGE, 1857

BENJAMIN ROSS, AND HIS WIFE HARRIET FLED FROM CAROLINE COUNTY, EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND, JUNE, 1857

ARRIVAL FROM VIRGINIA, 1857 WILLIAM JACKSON

ARRIVAL FROM DELAWARE, 1857 JOHN WRIGHT AND
WIFE, ELIZABETH ANN, AND CHARLES CONNOR
ARRIVAL FROM ALEXANDRIA, 1857 OSCAR D. BALL,
AND MONTGOMERY GRAHAM

THE ACTING COMMITTEE

ARRIVAL FROM UNIONVILLE, 1857 CAROLINE ALDRIDGE AND JOHN WOOD

ARRIVAL FROM NEW ORLEANS, 1857 JAMES CONNER, SHOT IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BODY

ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON, D.C HARRISON CARY

ARRIVAL FROM VIRGINIA, 1857 JOE ELLIS

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND CHRISTOPHER GREEN AND WIFE, ANN MARIA, AND SON NATHAN

ARRIVAL FROM GEORGETOWN CROSS-ROADS, 1857 LEEDS WRIGHT AND ABRAM TILISON

ARRIVAL FROM ALEXANDRIA WILLIAM TRIPLETT AND THOMAS HARPER

<u>ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND HARRY WISE</u>

<u>ARRIVAL FROM NORFOLK, VA ABRAM WOODERS</u>

ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON, D.C GEORGE JOHNSON, THOMAS AND ADAM SMITH

FOUR ABLE-BODIED "ARTICLES" IN ONE ARRIVAL, 1857 EDWARD, AND JOSEPH HAINES, THOMAS HARRIS, AND **JAMES SHELDON** 

ARRIVAL FROM ARLINGTON, MD. 1857 JOHN ALEXANDER BUTLER, WILLIAM HENRY HIPKINS, JOHN HENRY MOORE AND GEORGE HILL

FIVE PASSENGERS, 1857 ELIZA JANE JOHNSON, HARRIET STEWART, AND HER DAUGHTER MARY ELIZA, WILLIAM COLE. AND HANSON HALL

ARRIVAL FROM HOWARD CO., MD., 1857 BILL COLE AND HANSON

ARRIVAL FROM PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD "JIM BELLE"

ARRIVAL FROM RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, 1857 PASCAL OUANTENCE

ARRIVAL FROM NORTH CAROLINA, 1857 HARRY GRIMES, GEORGE UPSHER, AND EDWARD LEWIS ALFRED HOLLON, GEORGE AND CHARLES N. RODGERS ARRIVAL FROM KENT COUNTY, 1857 SAMUEL BENTON. JOHN ALEXANDER, JAMES HENRY, AND SAMUEL TURNER

ARRIVAL FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY, 1857 ELIZABETH **WILLIAMS** 

MARY COOPER AND MOSES ARMSTEAD, 1857 ARRIVAL FROM NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C JOHN **JOHNSON AND LAWRENCE THORNTON** 

HON. L. McLANE'S PROPERTY, SOON AFTER HIS DEATH, TRAVELS viâ THE UNDERGROUND RAIL ROAD. — WILLIAM KNIGHT, ESQ., LOSES A SUPERIOR "ARTICLE" JIM SCOTT, TOM PENNINGTON, SAM SCOTT, BILL SCOTT, ABE BACON, AND JACK WELLS

ARRIVAL FROM HARFORD CO., 1857 JOHN MYERS

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1857 WILLIAM LEE, SUSAN
JANE BOILE AND AMARIAN LUCRETIA RISTER
ARRIVAL FROM NORFOLK, VA. 1857 WILLIAM CARNEY
AND ANDREW ALLEN

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ARRIVAL FROM QUEEN ANN COUNTY, 1858 CATHARINE JONES AND SON HENRY, ETNA ELIZABETH DAUPHUS, AND GEORGE NELSON WASHINGTON

ARRIVAL FROM BALTIMORE ELIJAH BISHOP AND WILLIAM WILLIAMSON

ARRIVAL FROM DUNWOODY COUNTY, 1858 DARIUS HARRIS

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<u>DERRIX</u>

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1858 EDWARD CARROLL
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ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND ROBERT CARR
ARRIVAL OF A PARTY OF SIX, 1858 PLYMOUTH

CANNON, HORATIO WILKINSON, LEMUEL MITCHELL,
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JOHN MITCHELL

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ARRIVAL FROM BALTIMORE, 1858 ROBERTA TAYLOR
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THOMPSON (A PREACHER)

ARRIVAL FROM VIRGINIA, 1858 ALFRED S. THORNTON

ARRIVAL FROM BELLEAIR JULIUS SMITH, WIFE MARY, AND BOY JAMES, HENRY AND EDWARD SMITH, AND JACK CHRISTY

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1858 JOHN WESLEY
COMBASH, JACOB TAYLOR, AND THOMAS EDWARD
SKINNER

ARRIVAL FROM NEW MARKET, 1858 ELIJAH SHAW
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MELVIN, ELIZA HENDERSON, AND NANCY GRANTHAM
ARRIVAL FROM RICHMOND, 1858 ORLANDO J. HUNT
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ARRIVAL FROM NEAR BALTIMORE, 1858 HENRY TUCKER
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(RESEMBLED AN IRISHMAN)

ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON, 1858 MARY JONES AND SUSAN BELL

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"ARTICLES." LEW JONES, OSCAR PAYNE, MOSE WOOD,
DAVE DIGGS, JACK, HEN, AND BILL DADE, AND JOE
BALL

ARRIVAL FROM DELAWARE, 1858 GEORGE LAWS AND COMRADE — TIED AND HOISTED WITH BLOCK AND TACKLE, TO BE COWHIDED

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ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1858 RUTH HARPER, GEORGE ROBINSON, PRISCILLA GARDENER, AND JOSHUA JOHN ANDERSON

ARRIVAL FROM NORTH CAROLINA AND DELAWARE
"DICK BEESLY", MURRAY YOUNG AND CHARLES
ANDREW BOLDEN

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND JOHN JANNEY, TALBOT JOHNSON, SAM GROSS, PETER GROSS, JAMES HENRY JACKSON, AND SAM SMITH

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND BIRTH-DAY PRESENT FROM THOMAS GARRETT

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SHORTER

ARRIVAL FROM HONEY BROOK TOWNSHIP, 1858 FRANK CAMPBELL

ARRIVAL FROM ALEXANDRIA, VA., 1858 RICHARD
BAYNE, CARTER DOWLING AND BENJAMIN TAYLOR
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M'NORTON SMITH

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IRWIN, EPHRAIM ENNIS, AND LYDIA ANN JOHNS
ARRIVAL FROM WASHINGTON, 1858 JOSEPHINE
ROBINSON

ARRIVAL FROM CECIL COUNTY, 1858 ROBERT JOHNS AND HIS WIFE "SUE ANN"

ARRIVAL FROM GEORGETOWN, D.C., 1858 PERRY
CLEXTON, JIM BANKS AND CHARLES NOLE
ARRIVAL FROM SUSSEX COUNTY, 1858 JACOB
BLOCKSON, GEORGE ALLIGOOD, JIM ALLIGOOD, AND
GEORGE LEWIS

SUNDRY ARRIVALS IN 1859 SARAH ANN MILLS, Boonsborough; CAROLINE GASSWAY, Mt. Airy; LEVIN HOLDEN, Laurel; WILLIAM JAMES CONNER, with his wife, child, and four brothers; JAMES LAZARUS, Delaware; RICHARD WILLIAMS, Richmond, Virginia;

<b>SYDNEY</b>	<b>HOPKINS</b>	and	<b>HENRY</b>	WHEELER,	<u>, Havre</u>	de
Grace						

ARRIVAL FROM RICHMOND, 1859 CORNELIUS HENRY JOHNSON. FACE CANADA-WARD FOR YEARS

ARRIVAL FROM DELAWARE, 1858 THEOPHILUS
COLLINS, ANDREW JACKSON BOYCE, HANDY BURTON
AND ROBERT JACKSON A DESPERATE, BLOODY
STRUGGLE — GUN, KNIFE AND FIRE SHOVEL, USED BY
AN INFURIATED MASTER

ARRIVAL FROM RICHMOND, 1859 STEPNEY BROWN
ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1859 JIM KELL, CHARLES
HEATH, WILLIAM CARLISLE, CHARLES RINGGOLD,
THOMAS MAXWELL, AND SAMUEL SMITH

SUNDRY ARRIVALS, 1859 JOHN EDWARD LEE, JOHN HILLIS, CHARLES ROSS, JAMES RYAN, WILLIAM JOHNSTON, EDWARD WOOD, CORNELIUS FULLER AND HIS WIFE HARRIET, JOHN PINKET, ANSAL CANNON, AND JAMES BROWN

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1859 JAMES BROWN

ARRIVAL FROM DELAWARE, 1859 EDWARD, JOHN, AND

CHARLES HALL

ARRIVAL FROM VIRGINIA, 1859 JAMES TAYLOR, ALBERT GROSS, AND JOHN GRINAGE

SUNDRY ARRIVALS FROM MARYLAND (1859) AND OTHER PLACES JAMES ANDY WILKINS, and wife LUCINDA, with their little boy, CHARLES, CHARLES HENRY GROSS, A WOMAN with her TWO CHILDREN — one in her arms — JOHN BROWN, JOHN ROACH, and wife LAMBY, and HENRY SMALLWOOD

ARRIVAL FROM RICHMOND, 1859 HENRY JONES AND TURNER FOSTER

<u>ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND TWO YOUNG MOTHERS,</u> <u>EACH WITH BABES IN THEIR ARMS — ANNA ELIZABETH</u>

## YOUNG AND SARAH JANE BELL — WHIPPED TILL THE BLOOD FLOWED

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, AND THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JOHN WESLEY SMITH, ROBERT
MURRAY, SUSAN STEWART, AND JOSEPHINE SMITH
SUNDRY ARRIVALS FROM MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA
HENRY FIELDS, CHARLES RINGGOLD, WILLIAM
RINGGOLD, ISAAC NEWTON AND JOSEPH THOMAS
ARRIVAL FROM SEAFORD, 1859 ROBERT BELL AND
TWO OTHERS

ARRIVAL FROM TAPPS' NECK, MD., 1859 LEWIS WILSON, JOHN WATERS, ALFRED EDWARDS AND WILLIAM QUINN

ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND, 1859 ANN MARIA JACKSON AND HER SEVEN CHILDREN — MARY ANN, WILLIAM HENRY, FRANCES SABRINA, WILHELMINA, JOHN EDWIN, EBENEZER THOMAS, AND WILLIAM ALBERT

SUNDRY ARRIVALS FROM VIRGINIA, MARYLAND AND DELAWARE LEWIS LEE, ENOCH DAVIS, JOHN BROWN, THOMAS EDWARD DIXON, AND WILLIAM OLIVER ARRIVAL FROM DIFFERENT POINTS JACOB BROWN, JAMES HARRIS, BENJAMIN PINEY, JOHN SMITH, ANDREW JACKSON, WILLIAM HUGHES, WESLEY WILLIAMS, ROSANNA JOHNSON, JOHN SMALLWOOD, AND HENRY

SUNDRY ARRIVALS FROM MARYLAND, 1860 WILLIAM CHION AND HIS WIFE, EMMA, EVAN GRAFF, AND FOUR OTHERS

**TOWNSEND** 

ARRIVAL FROM VIRGINIA, 1860 JENNY BUCHANAN A KIND MASTER; JENNY CHASTISED ONE OF HIS SONS FOR AN INSULT, AND AS A PUNISHMENT SHE WAS SOLD — SEIZED FOR DEBT — SOLD A SECOND TIME

ARRIVAL FROM BALTIMORE, 1860 WILLIAM BROWN,
AND JAMES HENSON
ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND PHILIP STANTON,
RANDOLPH NICHOLS, AND THOMAS DOUGLASS
ARRIVAL FROM FREDERICKSBURG, 1860 HENRY TUDLI
AND WIFE, MARY WILLIAMS
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<u>ARCHER, LEWIS PECK, DAVID EDWARDS, EDWARD</u>
<u>CASTING, JOE HENRY, GEORGE AND ALBERT WHITE,</u>
JOSEPH C. JOHNSON, DAVID SNIVELY, AND HENRY
<u>DUNMORE</u>
CROSSING THE BAY IN A BATTEAU SHARP CONTEST
WITH PURSUERS ON WATER. FUGITIVES VICTORIOUS
ARRIVAL FROM DORCHESTER CO., 1860 HARRIET
TUBMAN'S LAST "TRIP" TO MARYLAND
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WIFE, DIANA, SON, CORNELIUS, AND TWO
DAUGHTERS, MARGARET, AND SUSAN
TWELVE MONTHS IN THE WOODS, 1860 HENRY
COTTON
ARRIVAL FROM MARYLAND WILLIAM PIERCE
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F. ALBERTI PERSONATED BY A MEMBER OF THE
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#### PREFACE TO REVISED EDITION

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Like millions of my race, my mother and father were born slaves, but were not contented to live and die so. My father purchased himself in early manhood by hard toil. Mother saw no way for herself and children to escape the horrors of bondage but by flight. Bravely, with her four little ones, with firm faith in God and an ardent desire to be free, she forsook the prison-house, and succeeded, through the aid of my father, to reach a free State. Here life had to be begun anew. The old familiar slave names had to be changed, and others, for prudential reasons, had to be found. This was not hard work. However, hardly months had passed ere the keen scent of the slave-hunters had trailed them to where they had fancied themselves secure. In those days all power was in the hands of the oppressor, and the capture of a slave mother and her children was attended with no great difficulty other than the crushing of freedom in the breast of the victims. Without judge or jury, all were hurried back to wear the voke again. But back this mother was resolved never to stay. She only wanted another opportunity to again strike for freedom. In a few months after being carried back, with only two of her little ones, she took her heart in her hand and her babes in her arms, and this trial was a success. Freedom was gained, although not without the sad loss of her two older children, whom she had to leave behind. Mother and father were again reunited in freedom, while two of their little boys were in slavery. What to do for them other than weep and pray, were questions unanswerable. For over forty years the mother's heart never knew what it was to be free from anxiety about her lost boys. But no tidings came in answer to her many prayers, until one of them, to the great astonishment of his relatives,

turned up in Philadelphia, nearly fifty years of age, seeking his long-lost parents. Being directed to the Anti-Slavery Office for instructions as to the best plan to adopt to find out the whereabouts of his parents, fortunately he fell into the hands of his own brother, the writer, whom he had never heard of before, much less seen or known. And here began revelations connected with this marvellous coincidence, which influenced me, for years previous to Emancipation, to preserve the matter found in the pages of this humble volume.

And in looking back now over these strange and eventful Providences, in the light of the wonderful changes wrought by Emancipation, I am more and more constrained to believe that the reasons, which years ago led me to aid the bondman and preserve the records of his sufferings, are today quite as potent in convincing me that the necessity of the times requires this testimony.

And since the first advent of my book, wherever reviewed or read by leading friends of freedom, the press, or the race more deeply represented by it, the expressions of approval and encouragement have been hearty and unanimous, and the thousands of volumes which have been sold by me, on the subscription plan, with hardly any facilities for the work, makes it obvious that it would, in the hands of a competent publisher, have a wide circulation.

And here I may frankly state, that but for the hope I have always cherished that this work would encourage the race in efforts for self-elevation, its publication never would have been undertaken by me.

I believe no more strongly at this moment than I have believed ever since the Proclamation of Emancipation was made by Abraham Lincoln, that as a class, in this country, no small exertion will have to be put forth before the blessings of freedom and knowledge can be fairly enjoyed by this people; and until colored men manage by dint of hard acquisition to enter the ranks of skilled industry, very little substantial respect will be shown them, even with the ballot-box and musket in their hands.

Well-conducted shops and stores; lands acquired and good farms managed in a manner to compete with any other; valuable books produced and published on interesting and important subjects — these are some of the fruits which the race are expected to exhibit from their newly gained privileges.

If it is asked "how?" I answer, "through extraordinary determination and endeavor," such as are demonstrated in hundreds of cases in the pages of this book, in the struggles of men and women to obtain their freedom, education and property.

These facts must never be lost sight of.

The race must not forget the rock from whence they were hewn, nor the pit from whence, they were digged.

Like other races, this newly emancipated people will need all the knowledge of their past condition which they can get.

The bondage and deliverance of the children of Israel will never be allowed to sink into oblivion while the world stands.

Those scenes of suffering and martyrdom millions of Christians were called upon to pass through in the days of the Inquisition are still subjects of study, and have unabated interest for all enlightened minds.

The same is true of the history of this country. The struggles of the pioneer fathers are preserved, produced and re-produced, and cherished with undying interest by all Americans, and the day will not arrive while the Republic exists, when these histories will not be found in every library.

While the grand little army of abolitionists was waging its untiring warfare for freedom, prior to the rebellion, no agency encouraged them like the heroism of fugitives. The pulse of the four millions of slaves and their desire for

freedom, were better felt through "The Underground Railroad," than through any other channel.

Frederick Douglass, Henry Bibb, Wm. Wells Brown, Rev. J.W. Logan, and others, gave unmistakable evidence that the race had no more eloquent advocates than its own self-emancipated champions.

Every step they took to rid themselves of their fetters, or to gain education, or in pleading the cause of their fellowbondmen in the lecture-room, or with their pens, met with applause on every hand, and the very argument needed was thus furnished in large measure. In those dark days previous to emancipation, such testimony was indispensable.

The free colored men are as imperatively required now to furnish the same manly testimony in support of the ability of the race to surmount the remaining obstacles growing out of oppression, ignorance, and poverty.

In the political struggles, the hopes of the race have been sadly disappointed. From this direction no great advantage is likely to arise very soon.

Only as desert can be proved by the acquisition of knowledge and the exhibition of high moral character, in examples of economy and a disposition to encourage industrial enterprises, conducted by men of their own ranks, will it be possible to make political progress in the face of the present public sentiment.

Here, therefore, in my judgment is the best possible reason for vigorously pushing the circulation of this humble volume — that it may testify for thousands and tens of thousands, as no other work can do.

WILLIAM STILL, Author. September, 1878. Philadelphia, Pa.

#### SETH CONCKLIN

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In the long list of names who have suffered and died in the cause of freedom, not one, perhaps, could be found whose efforts to redeem a poor family of slaves were more Christlike than Seth Concklin's, whose noble and daring spirit has been so long completely shrouded in mystery. Except John Brown, it is a question, whether his rival could be found with respect to boldness, disinterestedness and willingness to be sacrificed for the deliverance of the oppressed.

By chance one day he came across a copy of the Pennsylvania Freeman, containing the story of Peter Still, "the Kidnapped and the Ransomed," — how he had been torn away from his mother, when a little boy six years old; how, for forty years and more, he had been compelled to serve under the yoke, totally destitute as to any knowledge of his parents' whereabouts; how the intense love of liberty and desire to get back to his mother had unceasingly absorbed his mind through all these years of bondage; how, amid the most appalling discouragements, prompted alone by his undying determination to be free and be reunited with those from whom he had been sold away, he contrived to buy himself; how, by extreme economy, from doing overwork, he saved up five hundred dollars, the amount of money required for his ransom, which, with his freedom, he, from necessity, placed unreservedly in the confidential keeping of a Jew, named Joseph Friedman, whom he had known for a long time and could venture to trust, — how he had further toiled to save up money to defray his expenses on an expedition in search of his mother and kindred; how, when this end was accomplished, with an earnest purpose he took his carpet-bag in his hand, and his heart throbbing

for his old home and people, he turned his mind very privately towards Philadelphia, where he hoped, by having notices read in the colored churches to the effect that "forty-one or forty-two years before two little boys¹ were kidnapped and carried South" — that the memory of some of the older members might recall the circumstances, and in this way he would be aided in his ardent efforts to become restored to them.

And, furthermore, Seth Concklin had read how, on arriving in Philadelphia, after traveling sixteen hundred miles, that almost the first man whom Peter Still sought advice from was his own unknown brother (whom he had never seen or heard of), who made the discovery that he was the long-lost boy, whose history and fate had been enveloped in sadness so long, and for whom his mother had shed so many tears and offered so many prayers, during the long years of their separation; and, finally, how this self-ransomed and restored captive, notwithstanding his great success, was destined to suffer the keenest pangs of sorrow for his wife and children, whom he had left in Alabama bondage.

Seth Concklin was naturally too singularly sympathetic and humane not to feel now for Peter, and especially for his wife and children left in bonds as bound with them. Hence, as Seth was a man who seemed wholly insensible to fear, and to know no other law of humanity and right, than whenever the claims of the suffering and the wronged appealed to him, to respond unreservedly, whether those thus injured were amongst his nearest kin or the greatest strangers, — it mattered not to what race or clime they might belong, — he, in the spirit of the good Samaritan, owning all such as his neighbors, volunteered his services, without pay or reward, to go and rescue the wife and three children of Peter Still.

The magnitude of this offer can hardly be appreciated. It was literally laying his life on the altar of freedom for the

despised and oppressed whom he had never seen, whose kins-folk even he was not acquainted with. At this juncture even Peter was not prepared to accept this proposal. He wanted to secure the freedom of his wife and children as earnestly as he had ever desired to see his mother, yet he could not, at first, hearken to the idea of having them rescued in the way suggested by Concklin, fearing a failure.

To J.M. McKim and the writer, the bold scheme for the deliverance of Peter's family was alone confided. It was never submitted to the Vigilance Committee, for the reason, that it was not considered a matter belonging thereto. On first reflection, the very idea of such an undertaking seemed perfectly appalling. Frankly was he told of the great dangers and difficulties to be encountered through hundreds of miles of slave territory. Seth was told of those who, in attempting to aid slaves to escape had fallen victims to the relentless Slave Power, and had either lost their lives, or been incarcerated for long years in penitentiaries, where no friendly aid could be afforded them; in short, he was plainly told, that without a very great chance, the undertaking would cost him his life. The occasion of this interview and conversation, the seriousness of Concklin and the utter failure in presenting the various obstacles to his plan, to create the slightest apparent misgiving in his mind, or to produce the slightest sense of fear or hesitancy, can never be effaced from the memory of the writer. The plan was, however, allowed to rest for a time.

In the meanwhile, Peter's mind was continually vacillating between Alabama, with his wife and children, and his new-found relatives in the North. Said a brother, "If you cannot get your family, what will you do? Will you come North and live with your relatives?" "I would as soon go out of the world, as not to go back and do all I can for them," was the prompt reply of Peter.

The problem of buying them was seriously considered, but here obstacles quite formidable lay in the way. Alabama

laws utterly denied the right of a slave to buy himself, much less his wife and children. The right of slave masters to free their slaves, either by sale or emancipation, was positively prohibited by law. With these reflections weighing upon his mind, having stayed away from his wife as long as he could content himself to do, he took his carpet-bag in his hand, and turned his face toward Alabama, to embrace his family in the prison-house of bondage.

His approach home could only be made stealthily, not daring to breathe to a living soul, save his own family, his nominal Jew master, and one other friend — a slave — where he had been, the prize he had found, or anything in relation to his travels. To his wife and children his return was unspeakably joyous. The situation of his family concerned him with tenfold more weight than ever before,

As the time drew near to make the offer to his wife's master to purchase her with his children, his heart failed him through fear of awakening the ire of slaveholders against him, as he knew that the law and public sentiment were alike deadly opposed to the spirit of freedom in the slave. Indeed, as innocent as a step in this direction might appear, in those days a man would have stood about as good a chance for his life in entering a lair of hungry hyenas, as a slave or free colored man would, in talking about freedom.

He concluded, therefore, to say nothing about buying. The plan proposed by Seth Concklin was told to Vina, his wife; also what he had heard from his brother about the Underground Rail Road, — how, that many who could not get their freedom in any other way, by being aided a little, were daily escaping to Canada. Although the wife and children had never tasted the pleasures of freedom for a single hour in their lives, they hated slavery heartily, and being about to be far separated from husband and father, they were ready to assent to any proposition that looked like deliverance.

So Peter proposed to Vina, that she should give him certain small articles, consisting of a cape, etc., which he would carry with him as memorials, and, in case Concklin or any one else should ever come for her from him, as an unmistakable sign that all was right, he would send back, by whoever was to befriend them, the cape, so that she and the children might not doubt but have faith in the man, when he gave her the sign, (cape).

Again Peter returned to Philadelphia, and was now willing to accept the offer of Concklin. Ere long, the opportunity of an interview was had, and Peter gave Seth a very full description of the country and of his family, and made known to him, that he had very carefully gone over with his wife and children the matter of their freedom. This interview interested Concklin most deeply. If his own wife and children had been in bondage, scarcely could he have manifested greater sympathy for them.

For the hazardous work before him he was at once prepared to make a start. True he had two sisters in Philadelphia for whom he had always cherished the warmest affection, but he conferred not with them on this momentous mission. For full well did he know that it was not in human nature for them to acquiesce in this perilous undertaking, though one of these sisters, Mrs. Supplee, was a most faithful abolitionist.

Having once laid his hand to the plough he was not the man to look back, — not even to bid his sisters good-bye, but he actually left them as though he expected to be home to his dinner as usual. What had become of him during those many weeks of his perilous labors in Alabama to rescue this family was to none a greater mystery than to his sisters. On leaving home he simply took two or three small articles in the way of apparel with one hundred dollars to defray his expenses for a time; this sum he considered ample to start with. Of course he had very safely concealed about him Vina's cape and one or two other articles which