

New Philadelphia, Illinois and Pleasant Ridge, Wisconsin: Slavery and Freedom in the Antebellum Midwest

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl
Associate Professor of History
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

New Philadelphia,
Illinois
and Pleasant Ridge,
Wisconsin:
Slavery and Freedom
in the Antebellum
Midwest

I. Confronting MythsII. Restoring PersonhoodIII. Growth

Neewe (Myaamia/Illini)

Ketêpihipwa (Meskwaki)

Migwéch (Neshnabek)

http://newphiladelphiail.org/join-or-donate/



Join Today

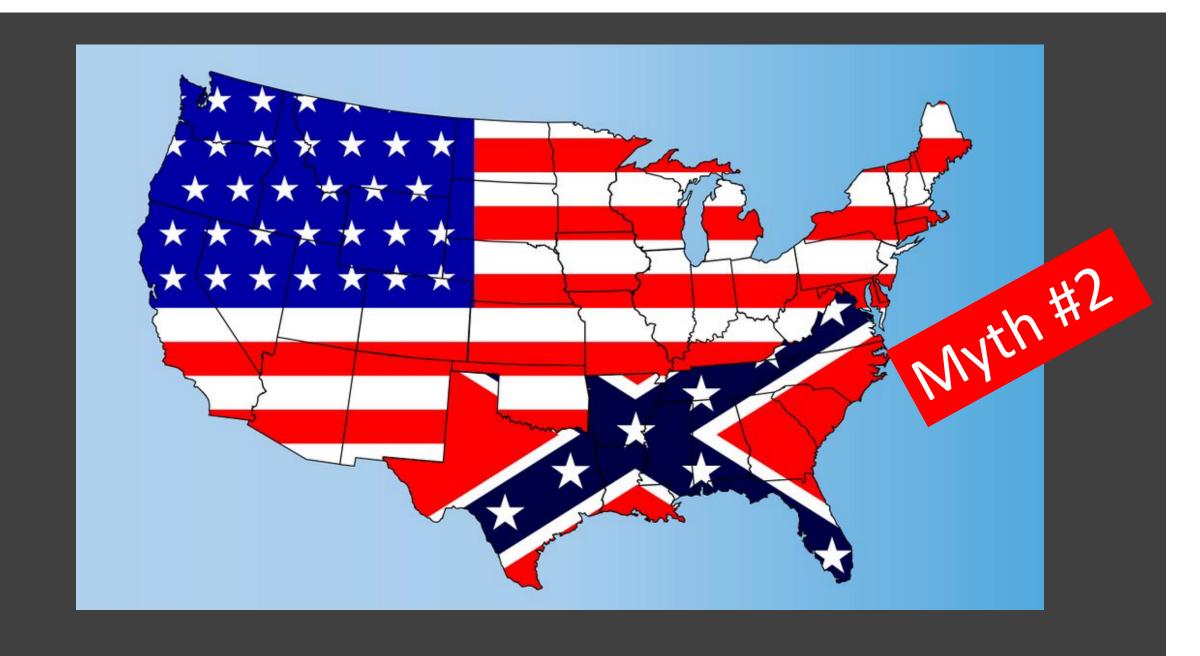


I. Confronting Myths



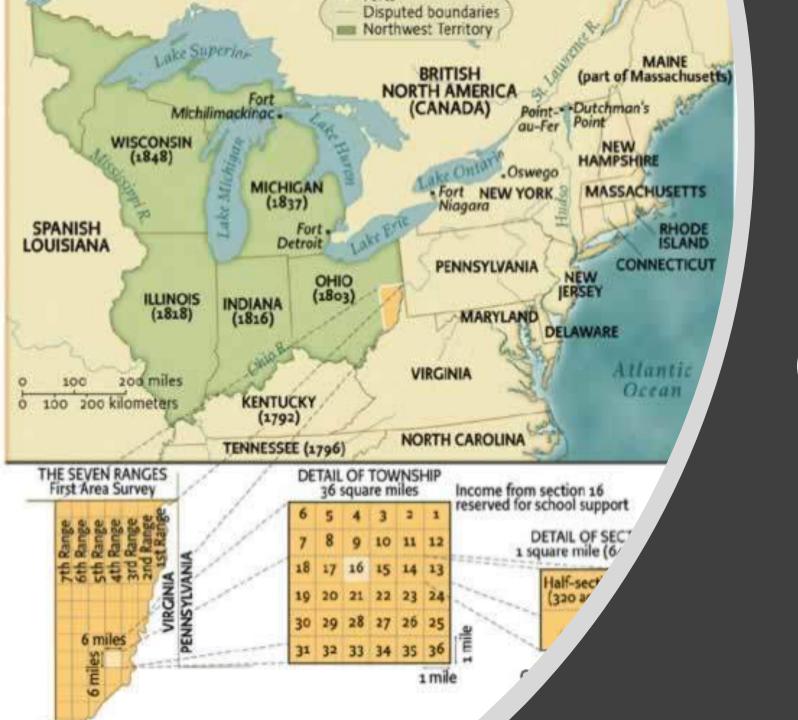
With #1

Martin Luther King, Jr., motorcade, Chicago Freedom Movement July 10, 1966, Chicago Urban League Photos, University of Illinois at Chicago

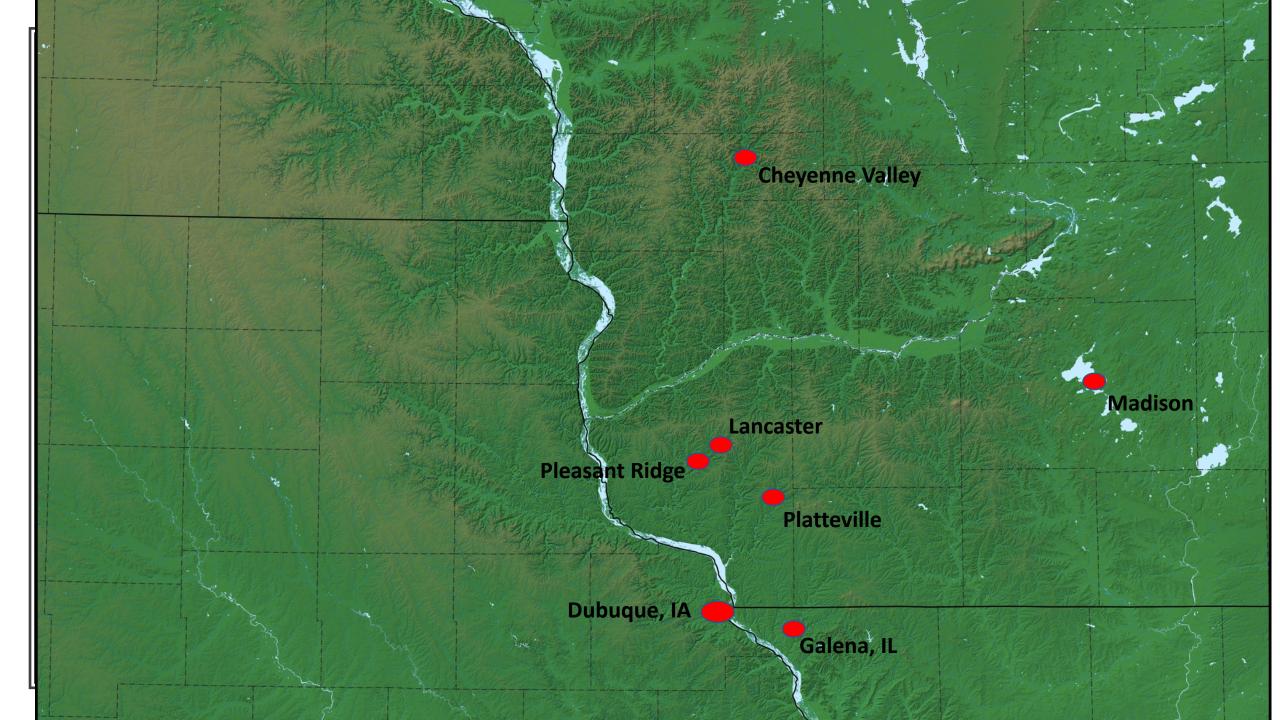


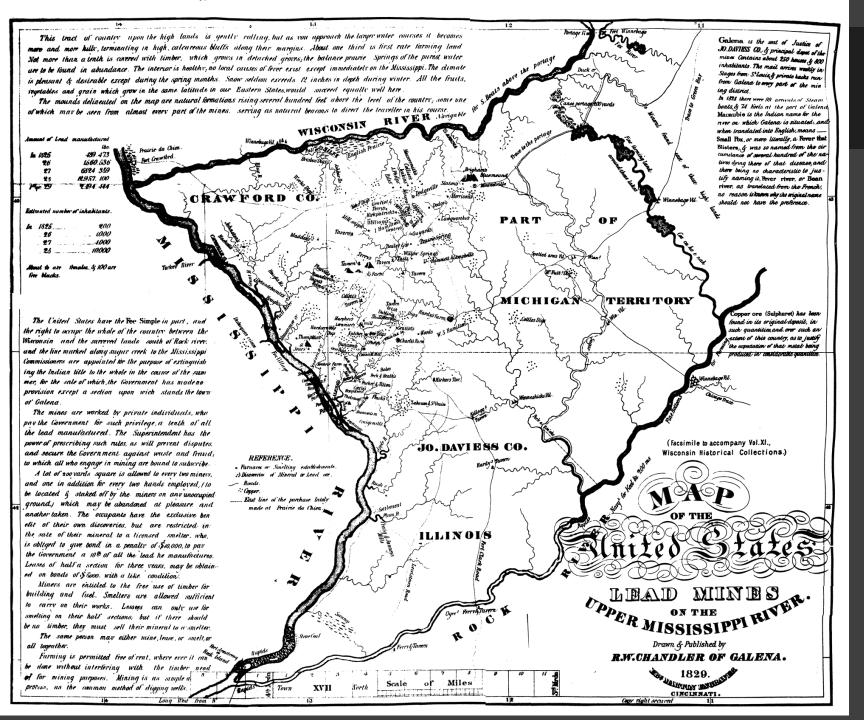
"There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory."

Article 6 of the Northwest Ordinance, 1787

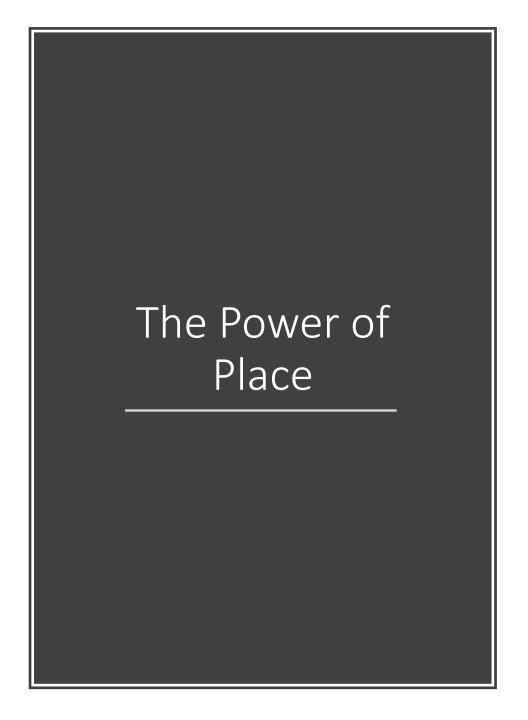


NW Ordinance 1787





Map of U.S. Lead Mines on Upper Mississippi River, R.W. Chandler, Galena, Illinois, 1829.





African American Lead Miners in Wisconsin Project: 2017-2018

Deja Roberson, Tori Kosobucki, Simone Rand, Liz Larrison, Winifred Redfearn

Presented at Council on Undergraduate Research, Posters on the Hill Symposium U.S. House of Representatives,
April 2018





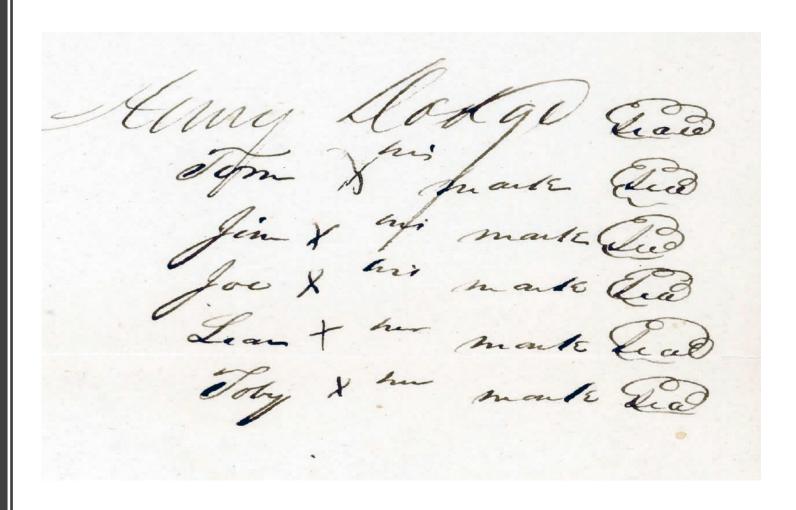
Celebrating Rachel Project: Summer 2019

Kaitlynn Niehaus, Brandon Snyder, Kelly Krowne, Keegan Miles, Joe Addante, Dylan Abernathy



Hearing Tom, Joe, Jim, Lear, and Toby

Manumission, 1838



Henry Dodge, ENSLAVER

Also, Founder of Dodgeville, First Territorial Governor of Wisconsin, and namesake of Governor Dodge State Park



George W. Jones, ENSLAVER

Also, Founder of Sinsinawa, Territorial Representative for Michigan Territory, Territorial Representative for Wisconsin Territory, and First Senator for the state of Iowa.



fullyment of the curt below doth order and at few ge, then the fullyment of the curt below he reversed and their said off observed of do have and charges by his mand about this curt by his and about this curt by his and about this curt by his early below and in this curt by his expected.

Daul Jones & Son assomposit

man of closer & Mis day came as and an off his his all as

Leonge Ho dones & the day in his attorney - and trear lang a join
ar in issue helican the position - (Secure come a first my
Winah Gros hong Sammed Emons - Alex Gros hahr. Morgan

Shull John humas Sohn Spears theomas Williams - William

Me auch Milliam Me Daniel transport miller dohn Me John

Mr I lewaning who heng bleated the acid swom the futty to

Speach reform the issue joined hering heard all the forest for and

allegations of the parties the arguments of course and the flower

of less Course to consider of the same returns into Court the

following perfect his

We then jury find for the defendant. His though so home

peace of and from tree source Refer the costs acid changes lay him

in all about his defence & parts to and that he may have

for cutton Marelon.

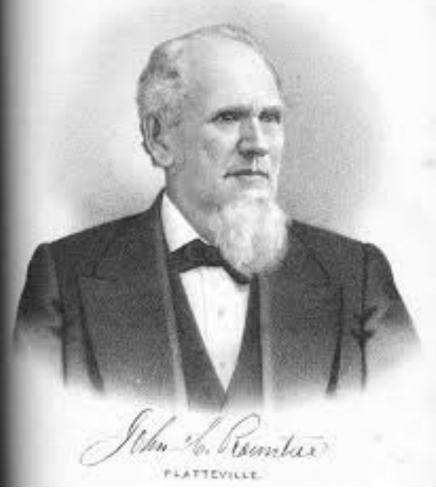
Som John Johnson &

His daig came the deft and on motion

John H. Rountree, ENSLAVER

Also founder of Platteville, State Representative of Wisconsin, and supporter of higher education in Platteville

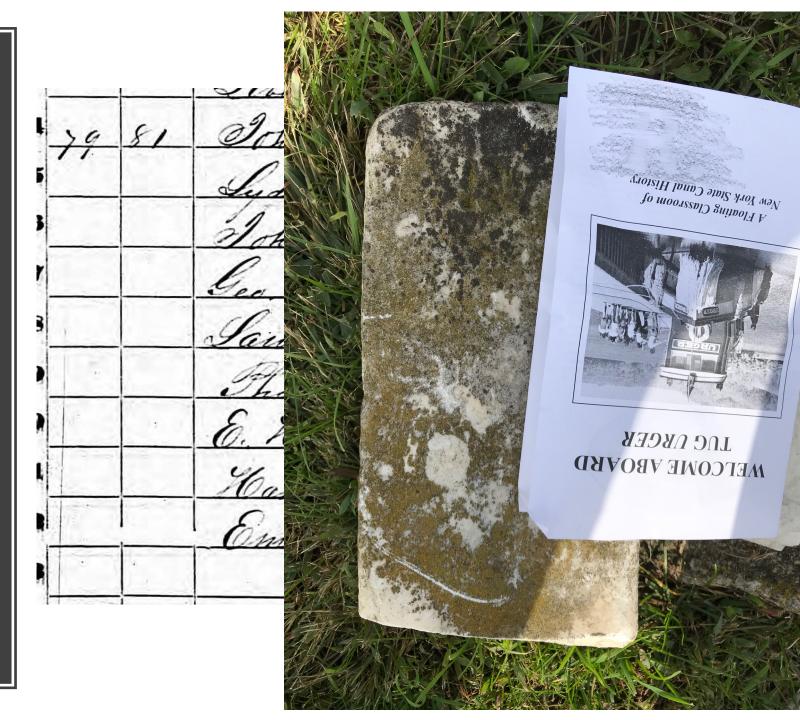




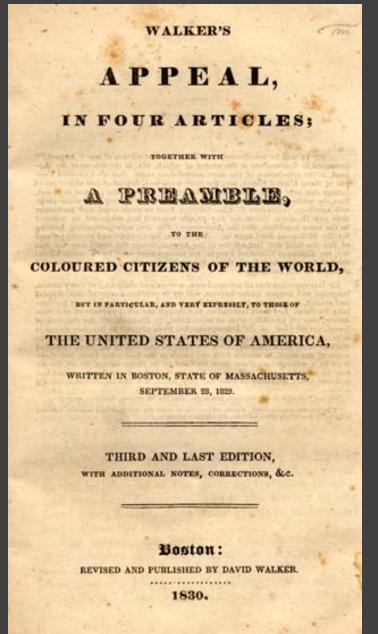
Rachel

Aug. 7, 1828

A gift?

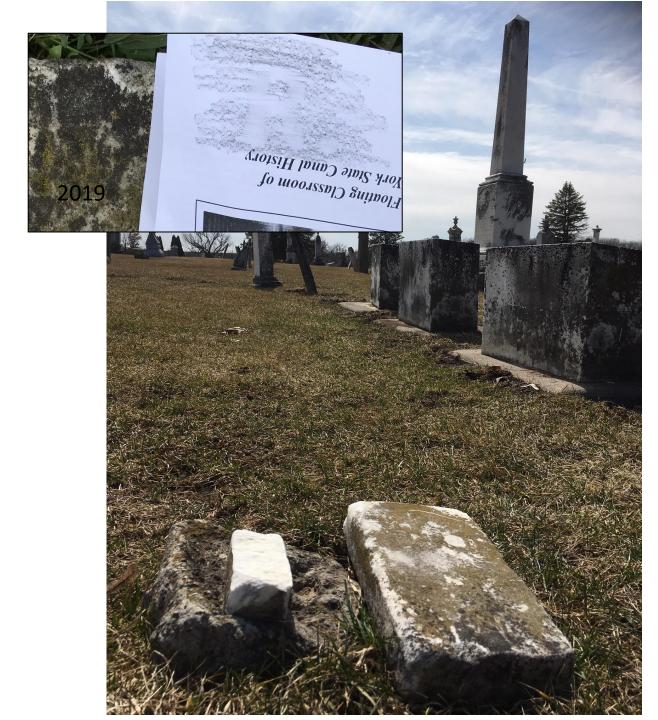


David Walker's Appeal, 1829



"the whites are dragging us around in chains and in handcuffs, to their new States and Territories to work their mines and farms, to enrich them and their children..."



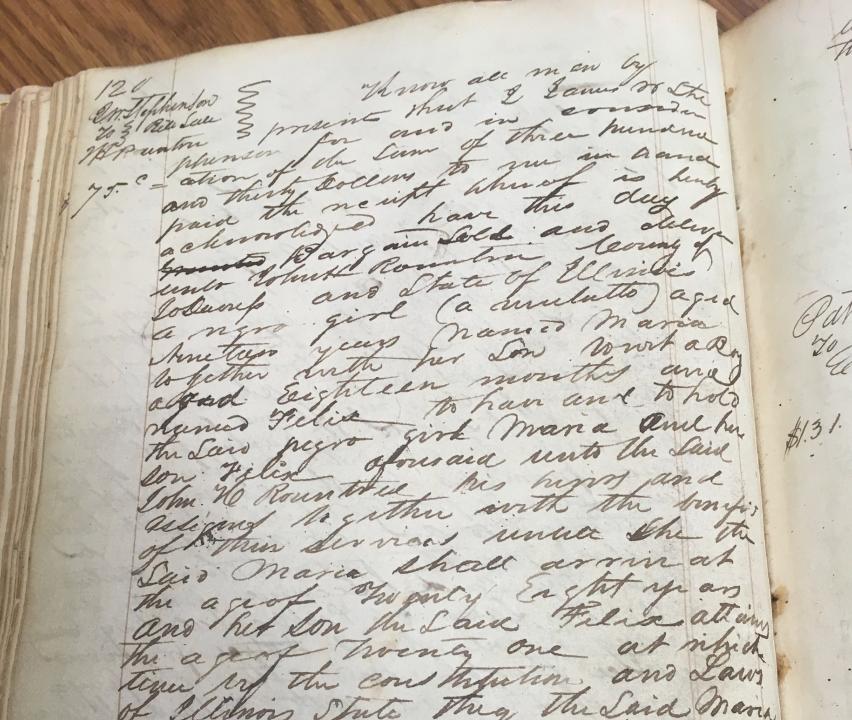






Maria and Felix

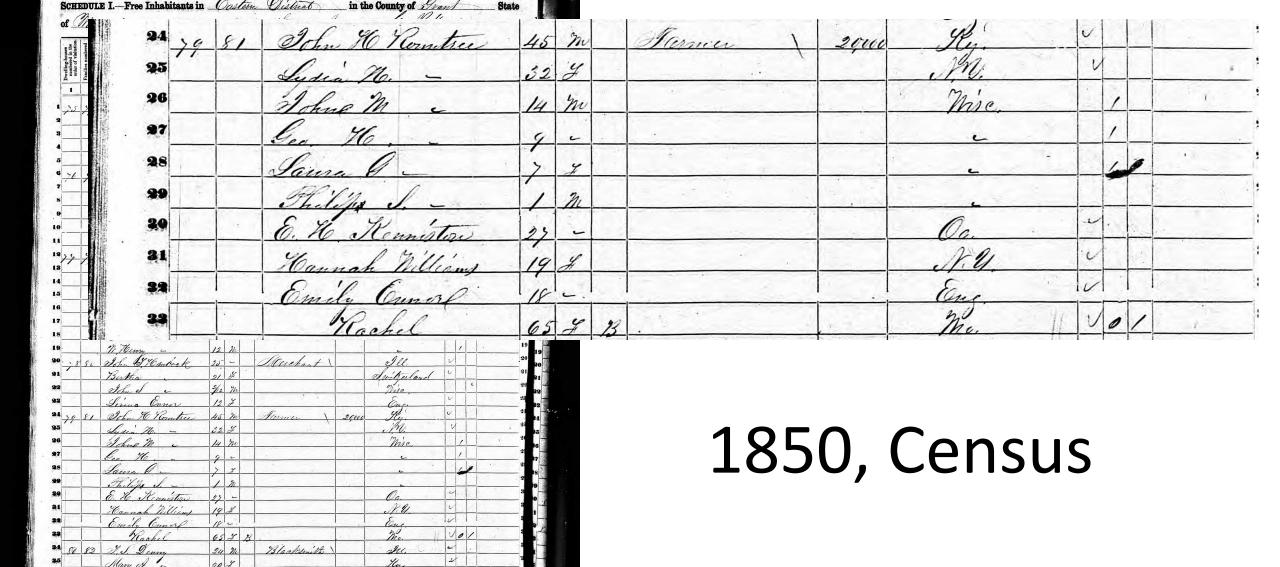
The Sum of \$330 20th day of May 1830



OF HEADS OF PAMILIES. Mallerite Said Vin H. Meley	Onder a di	der 10 18	15 S	3 200		7- 4	BOTE THE SHIP	1 (140kg)	Hi		er en	48.0%	11	PE	MALSS.	7	1.1	7 11.1	1975		. MA	LES.		1	PE	MALES.	
Mallente Marsh	4	11 3 31	20	30 30 30 40	40 50	50 60 sunder a ned 50 79	70 - 30	80 90 maler and 90 10	100 ter ted up- wards.	Under a		10 15 inder 100 15 20	20 er a under 30	30 • under 40	40 50 under 50 60	60 der seder 70	70	90 ader under 0 100	100 and sp- wards.	10 Inder a under 10 24	24 - under 36	36 • under 65	* 0	Under 10	10 9 ander 94 9	4 36 der + under 6 55	85 100 author and up. 100 counts.
Tran II may		- Additional	7	* /	/	7					2		And the second s	1				1				× 1					
. William Martin . Sery amin Green			1	' /						,			'					and control of the co))								
. Miliam Hardy	Telegraphic Co.	1.	1	2	1			Total Services			2	ì	9	1	ŧ			of other section of								r.	
. Vin & Maddle	/		2		1			2000 CO. C.			1	1	Activities (/			le,										
- Jumes dilon				0 1				*100.000		1	1	2	1				e k,			1							
- Lucius Schnere			///	, ,				and colored		-	1	,	,														
- Tomy It Had			1	1	1/			The second		1		<i>ii</i> , <i>ii</i>	A		,												
. Jum Mone	1		C/ 2.17					The Section					/					,									
- bia Many	/					List		1		3	/	11	z	1	1	\ \ \ \ \ \		18									
- Ven forrison	2			1 1								2	1	1		12		A second									
Now Ho Mountes	11	-	4	4 2	6.	Name of the last		200			1		2		42.4 4	Janes -	3			Y				,			y x 9,
- Mugh A foller	'	1		3	1	Mary mary mary mary mary mary mary mary m												•		1							
- James Horderek	/		1		1					3	//		1	1													
. Wateth Thomas	y 2							or Carefortine	-	2		١,			1					1	4		1				1840 Cens
· Martia Gugay	1/	1	1			-					2			1		The state of the s	\									i L	
· Sailed meet Heed	, ,	2	1 4	2	1					/				1	/	1	A-III		1								
· ART Locey	1		1	1 2					4			/	1	1				1									
	Sim & Matthe Steen Sumed Steen Steen Steen Sharen Steen Stee	Sim & Matter Sim & Seten Sumed Stien Sumed Street Sumed Street	Sim & Marthe Some Sim & Secon Stand Sicon Stand Steel Some Some Some Some Some Some Some Some	Sim & Madde 1 2 Sim & Secon Sumed Storm Sumed Storm Sumed Storm Sumed Storm Sumed Storm Sumed Storm Sum of Storm Sum Storm Sum Stormson Sum Stormson Sum of Plantice Sum of Protocock Sum of Storman Sum of Protocock Sum of Storman Sum of S	Syna Hing Look Vin & Matthe Sim of Sixon Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Some Some Some Some Some Street Som Some Some Some Street Samed Stientes Some Street Samed Street Samed Street Samed Street Samed Street Samed Street Samed Street Sand	Sim & Mattle Sim & Mattle Sim & Sixon Sumed Stiern Sumed Stiern Sumed Stiern Some Street Some Morrison Samed & Mondee Some Morrison Some Morrison Some Mondee Some Mondee Some Monde Some Mache Shower Some Mache Shower Some Mache Shower Some Monde Street Some Monde Stre	Sim & Mattle Sim & Mattle Sim & Sieten Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Sumed Stien Some Standard Some Strate Stienters Some Strate Siedler Som Morrison Samed & Mondee Som & Mondee Samed & Mondee Some & Mande Some & Mondee Some & Mond	Sind Hadde 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sim & Mattle Sim & Seten Sumed Stien Sum Strain Sum Strain Sum Strain Sum Strain Sum St Preserve Sumed Strain Sumed	Syn & Matthe 1 2 1 1 Sim & Sixon Sumed Stien Sumed Sti	Sin & Maddle Nin & Maddle Nin & Maddle Nin & Sexen Jumes dilin Ju	Com thing Sort Vin & Mattle Vin & Mattle Vin & Secon James Select Land Sheeter James More James More James More James More James Morrison James Relate James Constant James Const	Sums thing Sort Vin & Min & Setten Sumes Stilen Sumes Stilen Sumes Stilen Sumes Stilen Sumes Stilen Sume of the Continue Sume of the Continue Sum Sorriere Sum Sorriere Sum of Stilen Sum of S	Sime & Matthe 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sim & Martille 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Sim & Mattle Sim & Mattle Sim & Mattle Sim & Steen Summer Steen Sum	Sim & Matthe 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Grand Hordie 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Grand Hing Lord Sin & Matthe Sin & Matthe Sin & Seam Summer Stell S	Sin & Matthe Start 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Grand Hing Serie Sin & Matthe Stin M. Secon Stin M. Secon Stin M. Secon Sund Stin Sund Minera Sund Mark Sund Minera Sund Miner	Grand Hing Sort Sin & Madde Som of Secon Som of Secon	Grand Martle	Great Might Steery Great March Great March James Steery James Steery	Great May Sorth Som A Second Som A Second	Since Martin	Since Martin 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

2 / 4 / 4 / 4 / 5 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 3 / 5 / 4 / 5 / 3 / 5 / 4 / 5 / 3 / 5 / 4 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5 / 5		
9 3 4 5 3		1
9 3 3 5 3		
9 3 4 5 3		
9 3 4 5 3 1		1 2 2
9 3 4 5 3		[] [] [] []
9 3 4 5 3 1		,î 2
9 3 4 5 3 1		5 2
9 3 4 5 3		.i z
3 . 4		
1 3		
Lond Control		
		. \ ``
Χ.,	11	٥
; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ; ;		The second second
	l	
	1	
y	\ \	1
	*	1
	3	
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \		
159		
150		

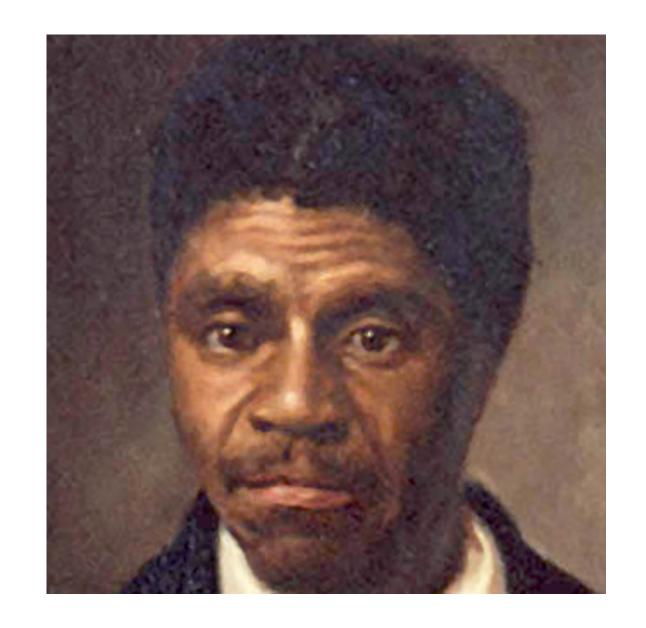
SA



Blacksmith

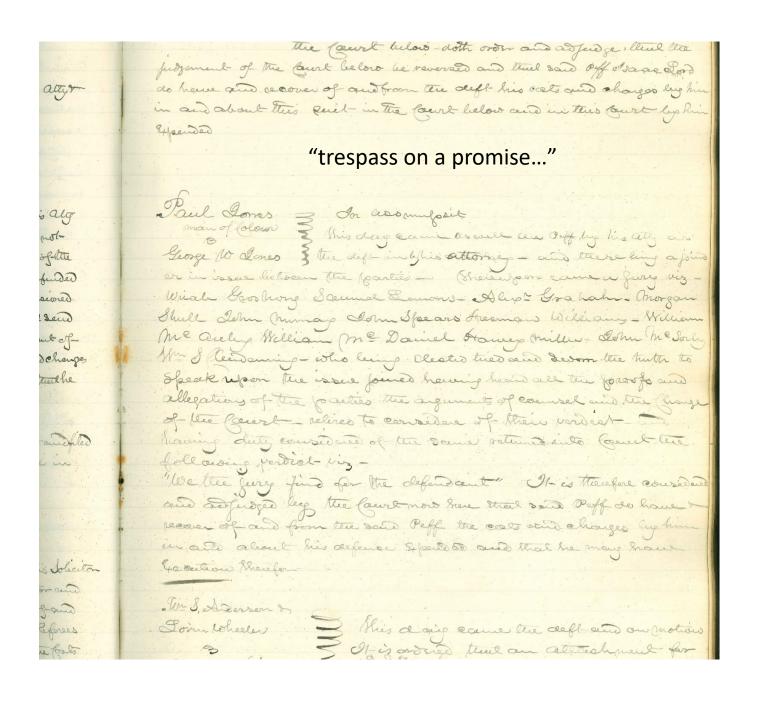
1834 (IL) 1837 (WI Territory) Fort Snelling

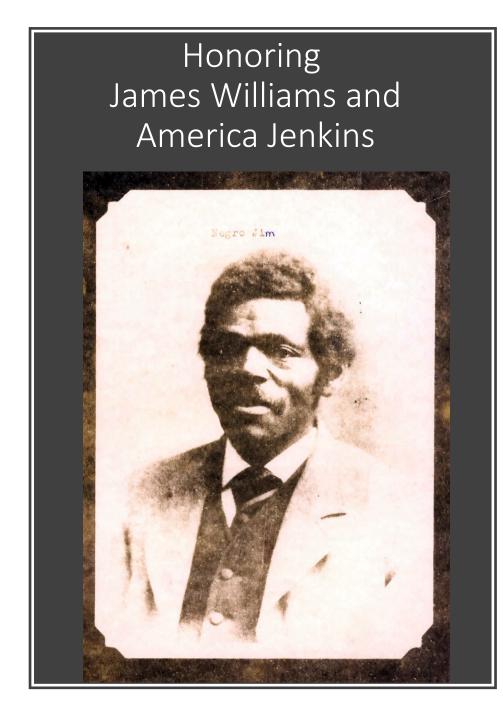
Scott v. Emerson, 1847 Dred Scott Case, 1857



The Curious
Case of
Paul Jones
Lancaster, WI
1839-1840

Freed in 1842













Pleasant Ridge

- Formerly enslaved African American families founded the village of Pleasant Ridge, Wisconsin in 1848. It was thriving by 1850 with one of the first integrated schools East of the Mississippi by 1873.
- Charles and Caroline Shepard and Isaac and Sarah Shepard came from Virginia, along with dozens of others largely from Missouri. They founded the community for new opportunities. This included members of the Greene and Grimes Families.
- Several members of the community served Wisconsin in the Civil War.
- Other black families came to Pleasant Ridge fleeing the repeal of Reconstruction in the South by 1877.





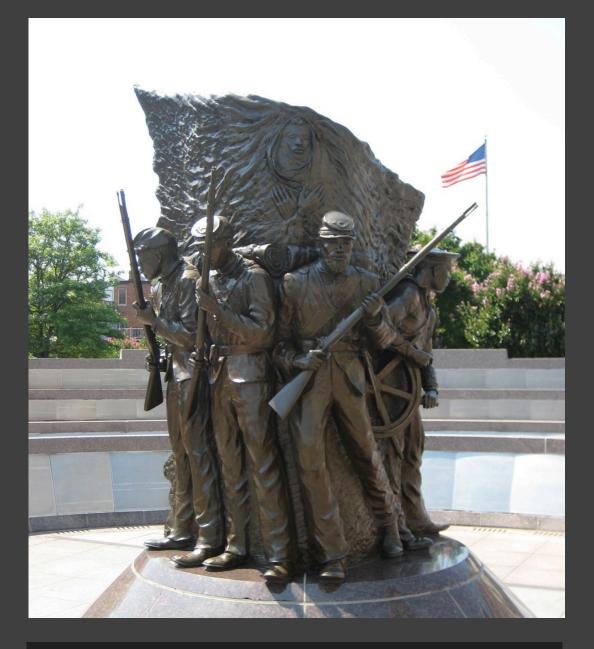
179,000 African American men served

• "Our union Friends says ... we are fighting for the union...very well let the white fight for what the[y] want and we negroes fight for what we want... Liberty must take the day and nothing Shorter."

a colored man,
New Orleans 1863

\$10 not \$13 a month

In 1863, Charles Shepard and his son, John, both walked to Prairie du Chien, WI to enlist in the Union Army (USCT (United States Colored Troops). Charles Shepard was with the 50th U.S. Infantry Regiment and died at Vicksburg, MS. John Shepard, a private in Company K, 42nd Regiment, died of disease at Cairo, IL at the end of the war, on his way home to Pleasant Ridge, Wisconsin.



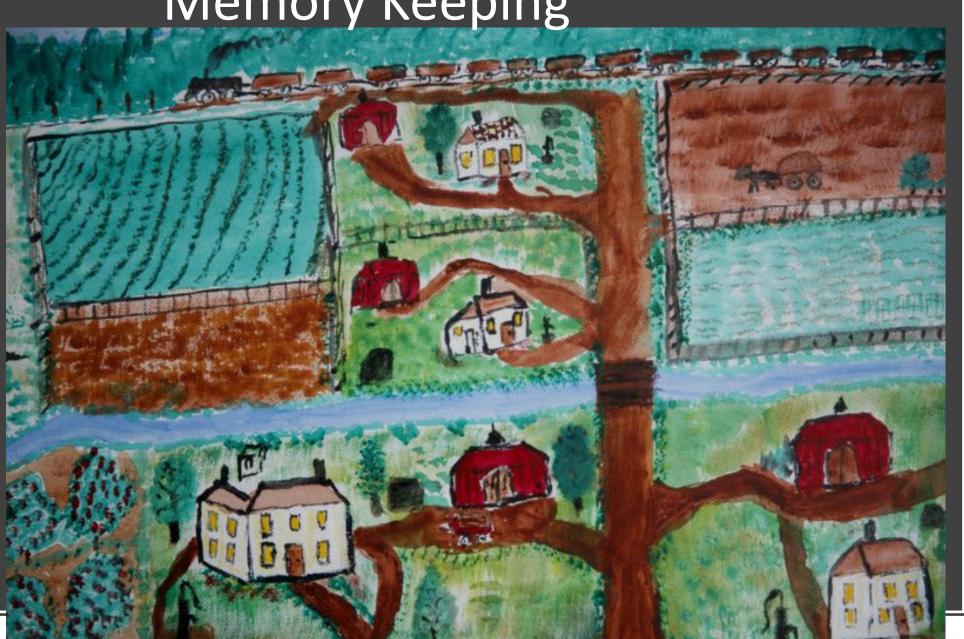
African American
Civil War Soldiers Memorial, D.C.



Pleasant Ridge School, Grant Co., WI, 1890

Memory Keeping

A painting of New Philadelphia by memory keeper Thelma McWorter Kirkpatrick Wheaton





Lucy Ann McWorter Vond, daughter of Free Frank, and her husband, near New Philadelphia, Illinois, 1800s

Courtesy of Pamela and Sheena Franklin

University of Southern Illinois

Many Voices Exhibition Memory Keepers

McWorter
Descendants
In northern
California



Images from Kate Williams-McWorter

Memory Keepers

McWorter
Descendants
From Kansas,
Illinois, Colorado,
Texas,
and California



Images from Kate Williams-McWorter

What can you do?

Craft Community Partnerships

UW-Platteville: Vice Chancellor, Melissa Gormley Dr. Adam Stanley, History Dept. Chair Dr. Frank King, Ethnic Studies Dept. UWP – Black Student Union SW Wisconsin Room

Clayborn, Benson, Wisconsin Black Historical Society and Museum

Rev. Gus Barnes

Dr. Rachel Lewis

Tracey Roberts, Grant Co. Historical Soc.

Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums

Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, UW-Madison

Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums Exhibit

African American Lead Miners in Wisconsin





Lead mining in the Driftless Region transformed Wisconsin into a territory and then a state by 1848, Ho-Chunk, Meskwaki, Sauk, and other native peoples occasionally mined lead ore prior to French exploration. Indigenous leaders worked with French Canadian prospectors by the late eighteenth century. By 1827, a lead rush engulfed the Driftless Region of the Upper Mississippi River Valley. This economic boom increased American settlement of Southwest Wisconsin and neighboring Iowa and Illinois. Among the early lead miners were an estimated 100 free and enslaved African Americans. The story of how black lead miners helped build the region is an essential story for the state of Wisconsin.

Slaves in Wisconsin...was that legal?

The 1787 Northwest Ordinance allowed for the creation of five new states. This was disastrous for Native nations. The Northwest Ordinance forbade slavery in the newly opened region. Lax enforcement ensured slavery remained in Wisconsin. Free and enslaved African Americans made vital contributions to early Wisconsin despite flawed legislation and practice.



The Prairie du Chien Indian Agent, Joseph Street, complained to William Clark in 1828 that Dodge's illegal settlement and mining would upset the delicate diplomacy of the fur trade, especially amongst the Ho-Chunk nation. He stated that:

"With two negro men in one place he [Henry Dodge] raises about 2,000 pounds [of lead] per day.

The amount of money that white settlers could make quickly allowed them to force Native peoples off their lands

The lead boom of 1827 to 1849 brought over 100 African Americans and thousands of European Americans to the region. Prominent settlers such as Henry Dodge (Dodgeville), John Rountree (Platteville), and George W Jones (Sinsinawa) came to the region in the 1820s to mine and process lead They brought with them, as part of their family units, enslaved men and women.

Read these Books

DAWN O
DETRO

TIYA MILES

A CHRONICLE OF SLAVERY AND FREEDO IN THE CITY OF THE STRAITS



A Black Pioneer on the Antebellum Frontier

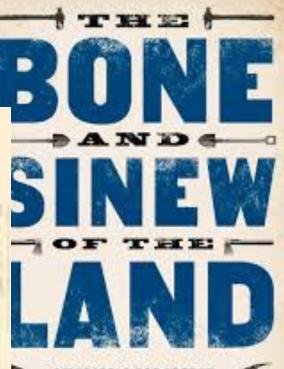


Juliet E.K. Walker

New Philadelphia



by Gerald A. McWorter and Kate Williams-McWorter for the New Philadelphia Association



BLACK PIONEERS

8 THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY

NNA-LISA COX

NATIONAL MUSEUM of AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE



Amplify Black History









