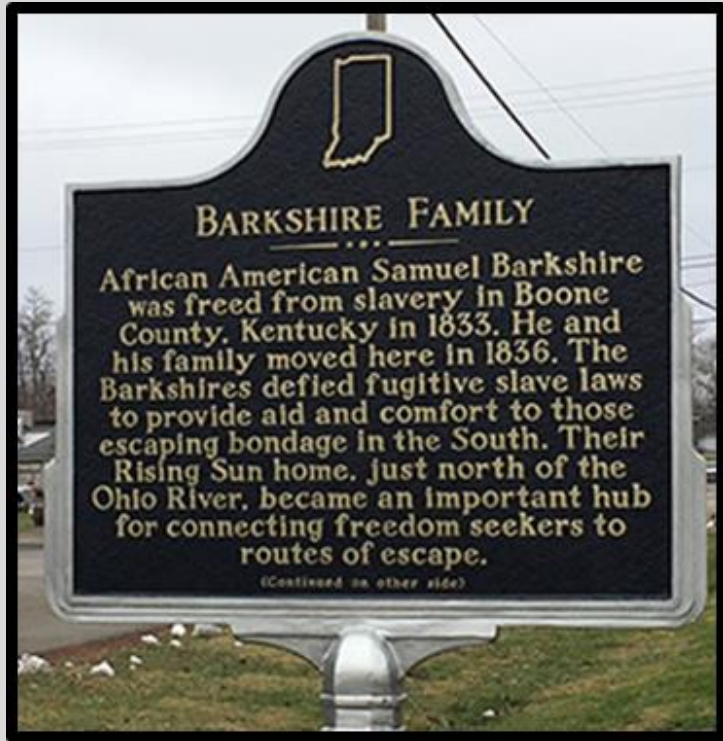


HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT: RISING SUN'S UNDERGROUND RAILROAD STATION



UNDER THE RADAR

- Modest size and design
- 3+ additions,
- Addition of siding
- Window modifications

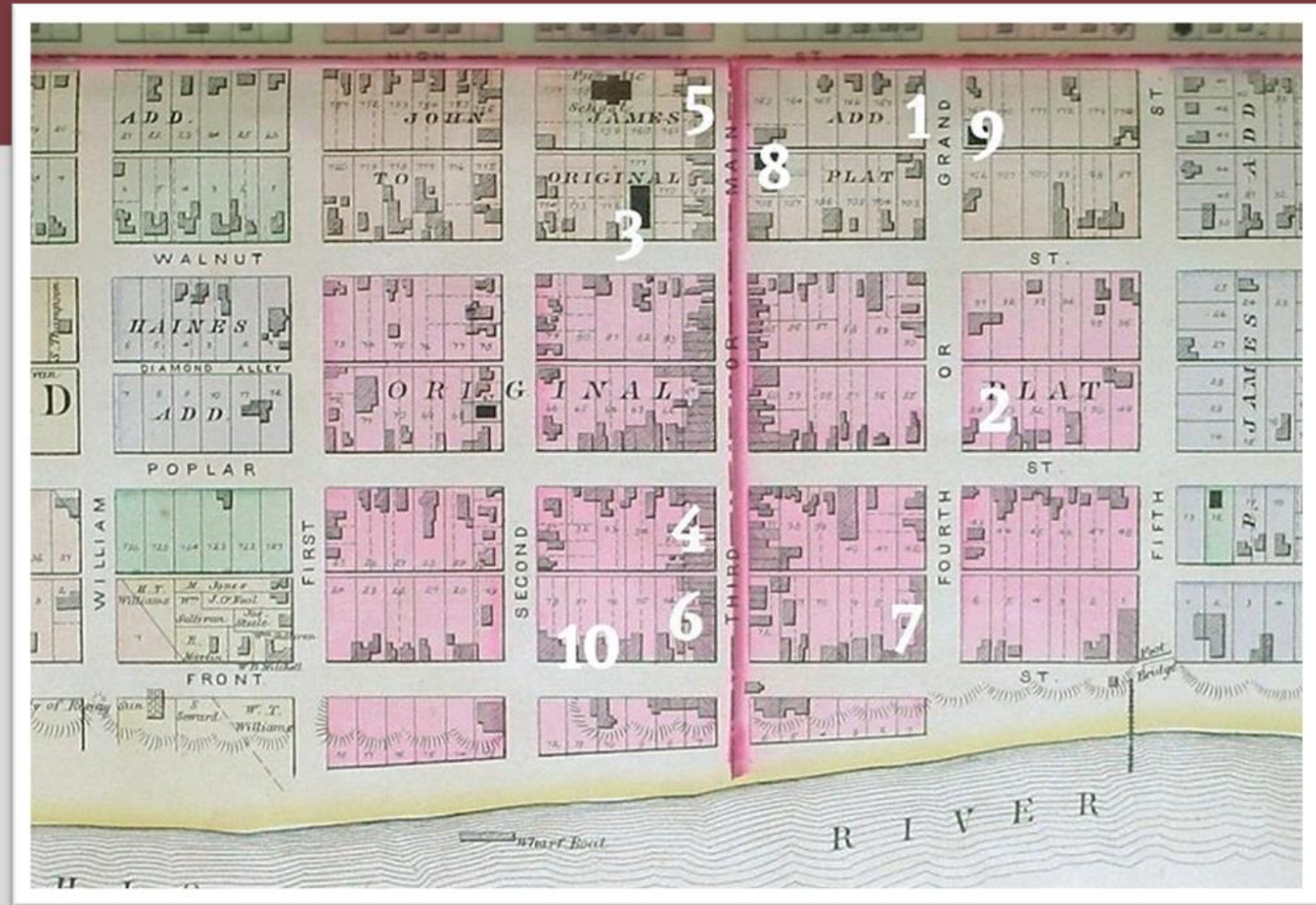


RESEARCH CHALLENGES

- Secrecy
- Hard-to-find documentation
- Local knowledge essential
- Understanding of records in Slave States

RISING SUN'S UGRR NETWORK

1. Samuel Barkshire - *Station master*; residence and cooperage near Seminary
2. Nancy Hawkins - *Station master*; residence, also later home of Barkshire sons, *conductors*
3. Theophilus Jones' cooperage; supported UGRR, letter in 1887 (*passive assistance*)
4. Joseph Eddington's business – wife Mary, *conductors*
5. Dr. Israel Evans' home-agent, *station master*
6. Dr. Evans' medical practice (*view of river*)
7. Shadrach Hathaway - merchant, *abolitionist*



8. Presbyterian Church – New school, *passive resistance*
9. Universalist Church – Abolitionists
10. Metellus Calvert – possible agent

VALUE OF SECONDARY SOURCES

Though Samuel Barkshire left a significant paper trail, none of the primary source documents confirmed his UGRR involvement

Other secondary sources include:

- News articles and advertisements
- Memoir of abolitionist Laura Smith Haviland
- City directories
- The History of Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

In a small town in Indiana about fifteen miles from the Ohio line there was an extensive underground depot, and many were the slaves that escaped through it to freedom. Scarcely a month passed but offers of rewards could be seen posted on the trees and fences. They seldom had the effect of recovering the escaped slave. Once a runaway had made his way across the Ohio and into this town he was safe from capture, though some of them were kept secreted for weeks before an opportunity offered to pass them along. The manager of the underground depot at this place was a **colored man—a cooper—named Barkshire,** formerly been a slave, but who had purchased his freedom, as well as that of his wife and four children. He was always well posted as to the movements of runaways, and ready to either hide them till the excitement attendant upon their escape had died out or pass them along. He was constantly on the alert, and many a man and woman passed through his hands on the way to Canada or the Western Reserve. His house was always open as a shelter to the runaways. **ex-slave- holder's help.** holder's help. His former **Mrs. Hawkins** kins, a Kentuckian, resided where she had removed after disposing of her Kentucky farm. She was his able advisor and coadjutor, for after removing to Indiana she became a rabid Abolitionist. One day, in 1852, a great hue and

The Barkshires' and Nancy Hawkins' relationship and involvement in the UGRR is the main topic

Details of several escapes from named Boone County enslavers were included

An 1887 letter to the editor from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle

PRIMARY SOURCES: KENTUCKY

I know all men by their presents that I Joseph Hawkins of Boone
County Kentucky for divine good causes and for the consideration of
one dollar in hand paid unto and by these presents doth hereby
set at liberty and fully emancipated a certain yellow man named
SAM, who was raised by Richard Barkshire Dec^r & sold and
transferred to me by Felix Barkshire which said yellow man SAM
is in all respects hereby exonerated from any spiritual servitude
as a slave and is in all respects to be as free as the laws
of the county may permit.
In Witness whereof I do hereby set my
hand and seal this 3rd June 1833.
Willis Graves.
Joseph Hawkins (2010)

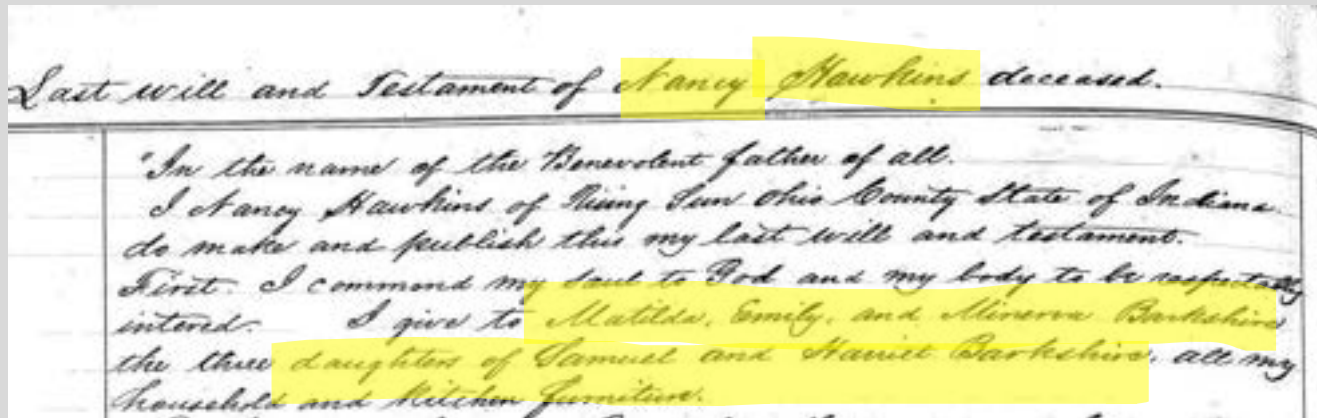
No surname was given in Samuel's deed of manumission from Joseph Hawkins, but a former enslaver, Richard Barkshire, was named in the document, identifying "Sam" as Samuel Barkshire

Other Boone County, KY Sources include:

- Court records concerning enslavers and Samuel's right to buy his freedom
- A deed of land in Boone County, purchased, then sold by Samuel
- Enslavers' land and probate records
- Census records
- Church records
- Tax lists for enslavers of Samuel's family and enslavers claiming freedom seekers

PRIMARY SOURCES: INDIANA

Nancy Hawkins' will, filed in Ohio County in 1854, shows the close relationship between Hawkins and the family she formerly enslaved.



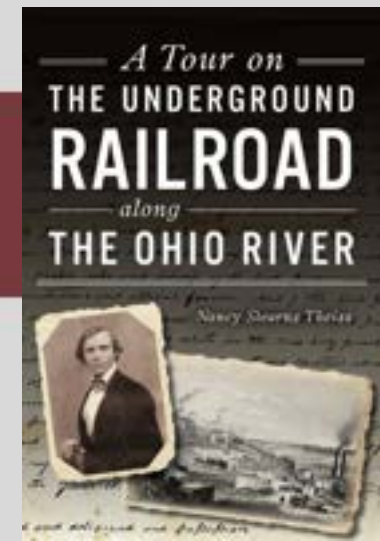
Nancy Hawkins' only heirs were the Barkshire children and Violet, who had been manumitted prior to 1830

Other primary sources in Ohio & Dearborn Counties include:

- Land purchase and mortgage of property
- Probate and court records
- Manumissions of adult enslaved people in 1838
- Manumissions of the Barkshire children in 1848

Each of the manumissions of the Barkshire children included their exact date of birth

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH PUBLIC HISTORY



The unassuming home on Fourth & Poplar St. and its fascinating UGRR history has been featured in numerous projects and programs:

- Tours
- Research databases
- Digital Displays
- History Conferences
 - Online Blogs
 - Podcasts
 - News articles
 - Books

2019 Kentucky Borderlands Conference
Rabbit Hash to Rising Sun Bus Tour
June 20, 2019



Itinerary
10:00 am Travel to Rising Sun, Indiana
10:45 am Jane Stephens/Rabbit Hash Story
11:00 am OCHS Museum Visit and Lunch
11:45 am Rising Sun Walking Tour
2:00 pm Arrive in Burlington, Kentucky



“History gives answers only to those who
know how to ask questions.”

~Hajo Holborn, German-American historian (1902-1969)

THANK YOU

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