

**THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
IN SHREWSBURY AND THE NORTH PRECINCT**

Examining the Evidence

Sponsored by the Our Story Ministry, a.k.a. The Historians

Researched and compiled by Carol Baker



Story of the Underground Railroad








The Monkey Wrench  turns the Wagon Wheel  toward Canada.



With help from Jesus, the Carpenter,  follow the Bears' Trail  through the woods.

Fill your Baskets  with enough food and supplies to get you to the

Crossroads . Once you get to the Crossroads, dig a Log Cabin  in the ground.

Shoofly  told us to dress up in cotton and satin Bow Ties . Follow the Flying Geese

 and Birds in the Air , stay on the Drunkard's Path . Take the Sailboat

 across the Great Lakes to the North Star  above Canada.

THE QUILTS MEANINGS



LOG CABIN

A safe house where you can rest, eat, and sleep. A red center signifies a warm fireplace hearth.



DRUNKARD'S PATH

Keep traveling in a zig-zag manner, moving on and off the road,



TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

Indicated a path around a mountain instead of over it.



WAGON WHEEL

Gather items to pack in a wagon; food, clothing, and a few coins.



BEAR PAWS

Follow the lake as a bear would, for obtaining food and water.



NINE PATCH

Mimics the plantation, with the center either red flannel.



BOWTIE

Indicated to go in disguise, or dress like a person of higher status.



SHOOFLY

The pattern identified a person who would escort them along the road.



CROSSROADS

Cleveland, OH crossing would be made to the free state on the otherside.



FLYING GEESE

Follow the road north and then stop at waterways.



DRESDEN PLATE

Symbolizes a wagon wheel and stands for Dresden, OH.



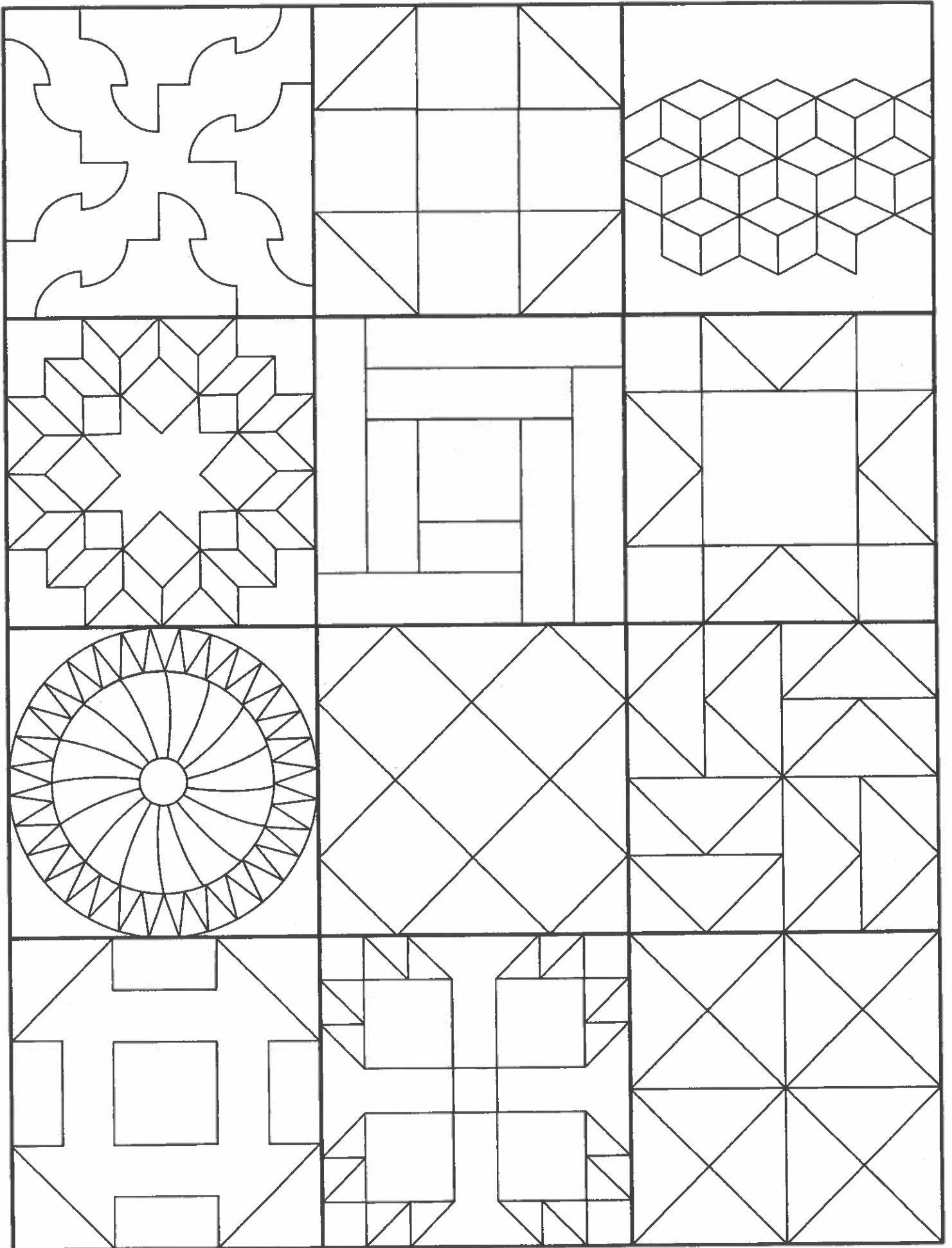
MONKEY WRENCH

The blacksmith's nickname; go see him to gather your supplies and tools.



NORTH STAR

Follow the star northward.





THE INSPIRATION



The Inspiration for the Freedom North Game has come from two sources, both books that have been written on the subject of the Underground Railroad Quilts. The first book is entitled *Hidden In Plain View*, by Jacqueline L. Tobin and Raymond G. Dobard, Ph. D. This is a fascinating story "that was passed down from generation to generation in the family of Ozella McDaniel Williams. The story is a coded message steeped in African textile tradition that provides a link between slave-made quilts and the Underground Railroad."

The second book is entitled *Facts & Fabrications, Unraveling the History of Quilts & Slavery*, by Barbara Brackman. The author "spent two years reading first person accounts and looking at photographs to educate herself about slavery and African-American history." She also researched through the Library of Congress online archive, which she refers to as a national treasure. Enjoy the game!

THE LEGEND OF PEG LEG JOE

Peg Leg Joe was a carpenter, sailor and conductor on the Underground Railroad. He did most of his work in Alabama, just north of Mobile. He used to travel throughout the South and was hired by the owners of the plantations and farms, as a handyman. Joe could perform all kinds of skilled work that a farmer might need. He could mend fences, build pens for the animals, he could repair the outside of the houses, just the things that a farmer might require. While he was there, he would become friendly with the slaves and taught them a song. The words of the song told about when to leave the farm, what direction to go; he basically gave them the code. The name of the song was *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Then he told them to spread the word to all of their friends. In spring Peg Leg Joe would meet them on the Ohio River and take them across in his boat to the free state on the other side. Then Joe would move on to another farm, and begin teaching the song to a new group of people. Here are the words for the song!

 *When the sun comes back, and the first quail calls, Follow the Drinking Gourd* 
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom, if you follow the Drinking Gourd
The riverbank makes a very good road, the dead trees will show you the way
Left foot, peg foot, travelling on, Follow the Drinking Gourd

 *The river ends between two hills, Follow the Drinking Gourd* 
When the great big river meets the little river, Follow the Drinking Gourd
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom, if you follow the Drinking Gourd

