

Lesson 9

READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

The Underground Railroad

Bob Brown resides in a rambling old mansion near the river. His house is on the Registry of Historic Places. It is famous because it had been a station on the Underground Railroad. The house seems quite mysterious because it's filled with hidden rooms and passageways.

During the days when slavery was allowed in the South, many citizens hated the idea that anyone could be owned as property. They joined with others to encourage the slaves to escape. Some made speeches about the evils of slavery. Others became authors and published books that generated sympathy for the slaves.

Frequently, desperate slaves attempted to flee from their owners. If they could make it to Canada, they would be free. But it was a long and dangerous trip. Many abolitionists helped by providing temporary safe haven in their homes. This system of homes became known as the Underground Railroad.

Many of the slaves were exhausted and starving when they arrived at these homes in the pitch dark. They would have been incapable of surviving the long trip on foot to Canada without the protection of people like Bob Brown's ancestors.