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Salem Press Announces *Defining Documents in American History: The Underground Railroad*

The *Defining Documents in American History* series, produced by Salem Press, offers a closer look at important historical documents by pairing primary source documents on a broad range of subjects with essays written especially for the series by expert writers, including historians, professors, researchers, and other authorities in the subject under examination.

This established series now includes over fifty titles that present documents selected to illuminate specific eras in American history—including the Great Migration, the Constitution, and Civil Rights—or to explore significant themes and developments in American society—The Free Press, Prison Reform, Slavery, and Workers’ Rights.

This volume presents seventy-six primary source and historical documents including book excerpts, court opinions, debates, and interview letters, to name a few. Each document provides insights into the significance of the Underground Railroad, from the efforts to end slavery to the struggles faced post-emancipation. Social unrest and examples of modern slavery around the world are explored in relation to the lasting impact of the Underground Railroad.

The material is organized into six sections, each beginning with a brief introduction that examines the importance of the topic through a variety of historical documents.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Railroad Comes to Life in Words and Song• The Beginnings: Slavery Enshrined & Abolished, Laying the Tracks for the Underground Railroad• The 1800s and the Journey Underground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What Followed: Optimism & Terror• The Underground Railroad Above Ground• Contemporary Parallels
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The documents contained within these sections provide an overview of the historical context and significance of the Underground Railroad, exploring years of the Underground Railroad’s operation from approximately 1800-1865 and into the modern day where its influence reverberates in modern equality efforts such as the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Each Historical Document is supported by a critical essay, written by historians, teachers, and researchers, that includes a Summary Overview, Defining Moment, About the Author, Document Analysis, and Essential Themes. An important feature of each essay is a close reading of the primary source that develops broader themes, such as the author’s rhetorical purpose, social or class position, point of view,

and other relevant issues. Each essay also includes a section entitled Bibliography and Additional Reading that provides suggestions for further readings and research.

Appendixes in this book include:

- **Chronological List**, which arranges all documents by date.
- **Web Resources**, an annotated list of websites that offer valuable supplemental resources.
- **Bibliography** lists of helpful articles and books for further study.

About the Series

The *Defining Documents* series provides in-depth commentary and analysis on the most important primary source documents in the United States and the world. *The Defining Documents* series is perfect for students, those researching a particular era, or anyone interested in world history. Visit www.salempress.com for more information about additional titles in this series.

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Defining Documents in American History: The Underground Railroad

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