

## **Introduction of Bridget Striker**

Bridget Striker was born in Syracuse, New York and grew up outside Rochester, New York on Lake Ontario. He has lived in Northern Kentucky since 1995 and Boone County since 2000. She worked as an archaeologist and a mapping specialist for an environmental consulting company before earning her master's in library science degree from the University of Kentucky in 2001. She has been at Boone County Public Library since December 2001 and head of the Local History Department since 2005. She is also Vice-Chair of the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board. Boone County Public Library is an affiliate member of the National Park Service's Network to Freedom. She would like to encourage sites, programs, and research facilities who have Underground Railroad and African American enslavement history to consider joining the Network to Freedom.

While not at work, she spends quite a bit of time with her husband and two girls. They like to travel and visit family. At home she likes to read supernatural fiction and do small craft projects.

According to Bridget:

*"The history of Kentucky's Underground Railroad has been somewhat ignored throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is very important for Kentucky to actively participate in the Telling of Underground Railroad and African American enslavement history. There is a wealth of information available in primary sources and community memory, but we must discuss the past and work together to tell out stories.*

*Boone County Public Library is currently creating a database of all enslaved African Americans and their stories / history for Boone County and surrounding counties called "African Americans of the Kentucky Borderlands".*