

## **John Parker, Conductor on the Underground Railroad**

**Description:** As a child, Parker marched in chains from Richmond, Virginia, to Mobile, Alabama. He earned his freedom in 1845 from money he earned using the skills learned working in a foundry in Alabama. Parker made his way to a foundry in New Albany, then Cincinnati, and finally settled in Ripley, Ohio, as work on the Underground Railroad piqued his interest and support. He patented inventions and became a successful businessman while working with other Conductors at Ripley. He and his wife, Miranda, raised five children, all of whom received degrees in higher education.