

About Thirty Days of Stories on the Underground Railroad in Kentucky

The podcast was produced to celebrate the month of September as International Underground Railroad Month. International Underground Railroad Month acknowledges the significance of the Underground Railroad, and all those involved, for its contribution to the eradication of slavery in the United States and as a cornerstone for a more comprehensive civil rights movement that followed. It provides an opportunity for world-wide open dialogue that illuminates the hopes that arise from freedom for all people.

This podcast series was produced and directed by the Oldham County History Center with support from the Oldham County Chamber of Commerce. The series was based upon the book *A Tour on the Underground Railroad Along the Ohio River* written by Nancy Stearns Theiss and was published in February, 2020.

The book was written to encourage people to explore local history and visit places where history events happened. With the border of 664 miles of the Ohio River that separated the slave state of Kentucky from its free soil neighbors, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, the river became the center of Underground Railroad activities. The development of this podcast series was based upon the book to encourage people to go out into their communities and explore their local history.

The Podcast Readers and Hosts are volunteers from various walks of life that widen the voice of each story selected for this podcast series. The Oldham County History Center supports the History Relevance Campaign that history lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities and provides models of inspiration and role models for meeting the complex challenges of today's world. (<https://www.historyrelevance.com>)

About the Producer and Director Nancy Stearns Theiss:

Nancy is a native of Oldham County where she grew up on the family farm and married her childhood sweetheart. She has numerous degrees in education, biology and environmental studies. She has taught in the public school system, worked for the Ky. Dept. of Education and the Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. She has been director of several non-profits and currently works as the Executive Director of the Oldham County Historical Society. She has written history columns for the Louisville Courier-Journal, The Oldham Era, articles and books and received numerous recognitions for her various endeavors. An avid naturalist and historian, Nancy believes that knowing your community and the people, places and living things (past and present) around you, gives you an understanding of your importance and place in the world.