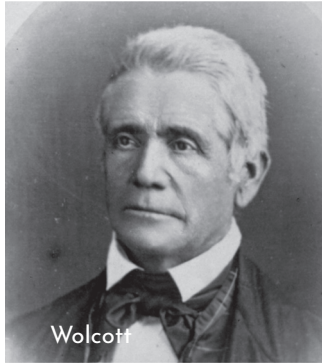
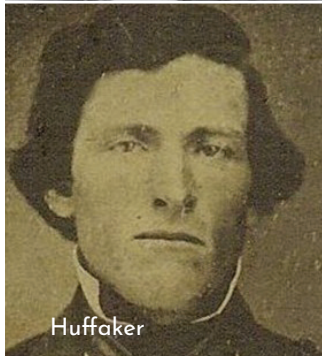


Henderson



Wolcott



Huffaker

The abolitionists of Jacksonville had to work around multiple daily obstacles to help runaways who sought freedom. These obstacles included state laws, slave catchers, and pro-slavery supporters.

The Underground Railroad was a secret network that concealed African American runaways and took them to freedom. Jacksonville became part of a broader U.S. network of freedom trails that crisscrossed Illinois.

However, the local Jacksonville abolitionist group was not a secret; they were proud of their work. They were of many backgrounds, including members of the Congregational Church, Illinois College students and staff, and freemen.



Jacksonville East Cemetery

### William Chauncy Carter son of an abolitionist, recalls the Jacksonville Underground Railroad:

"I can only say that so far as I know there was no regularly organized system of routes, although the name would seem to indicate that such was the case. All over the free states bordering upon the slave states were men and women who sympathized with the fugitives and were glad to help them on their way to freedom. In this part of Illinois, the route was constantly changing.

There was a very strong southern element here [Jacksonville] in those early days and a few pronounced anti-slavery men who were always true to their convictions and not scared by the name abolitionists were well known and thoroughly hated by the southerners. They were closely watched that frequent change of route became necessary.

Very many came up from St. Louis through Jerseyville to Jacksonville and then to Springfield and Farmington [Farmingdale] to Galesburg and so to Canada. When this scent became too hot, they would go east of us through Waverly and Chatham and so north. Then again, they would go West of us through Winchester or sometimes through Pike County and so by constantly changing would avoid pursuit.

In this part of the state, they were obligated to travel at night and lie by concealment throughout the day. Many times, they have been hidden in my father's barn [Ebenezer Carter] some three miles South of this place and a man named [Isaac] Snedeker (I do not know his first name) living in or near Jerseyville always brought them up. He has been dead some years, but I think has a son still living there.

A colored man named Ben Henderson was the man to whom they all went first on arriving in Jacksonville, and my father and my wife's father [Elihu Wolcott] were his main helpers, but all of these have been dead many years... So far as I know there was no "system of communication" among the members, but the first real abolitionists were so well known and so thoroughly hated that no one could mistake who to go to.

Though this part of the state the traveling was all done at night and the various pretexts and devices for concealment, etc. occasions for their use."



P.O. Box 913, Jacksonville, Illinois 62651

Funded through a grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, and donations from Elizabeth Aldridge, Theresa Schoeder, and an anonymous donor.

JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS

DIAMOND GROVE  
& EAST CEMETERIES

# UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CONDUCTOR TOUR



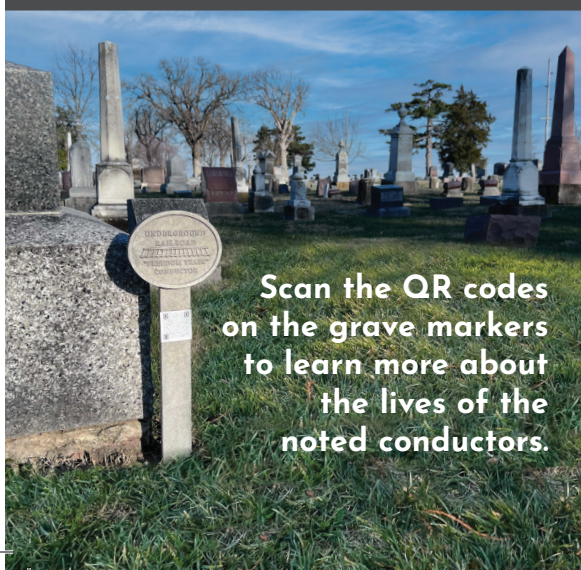
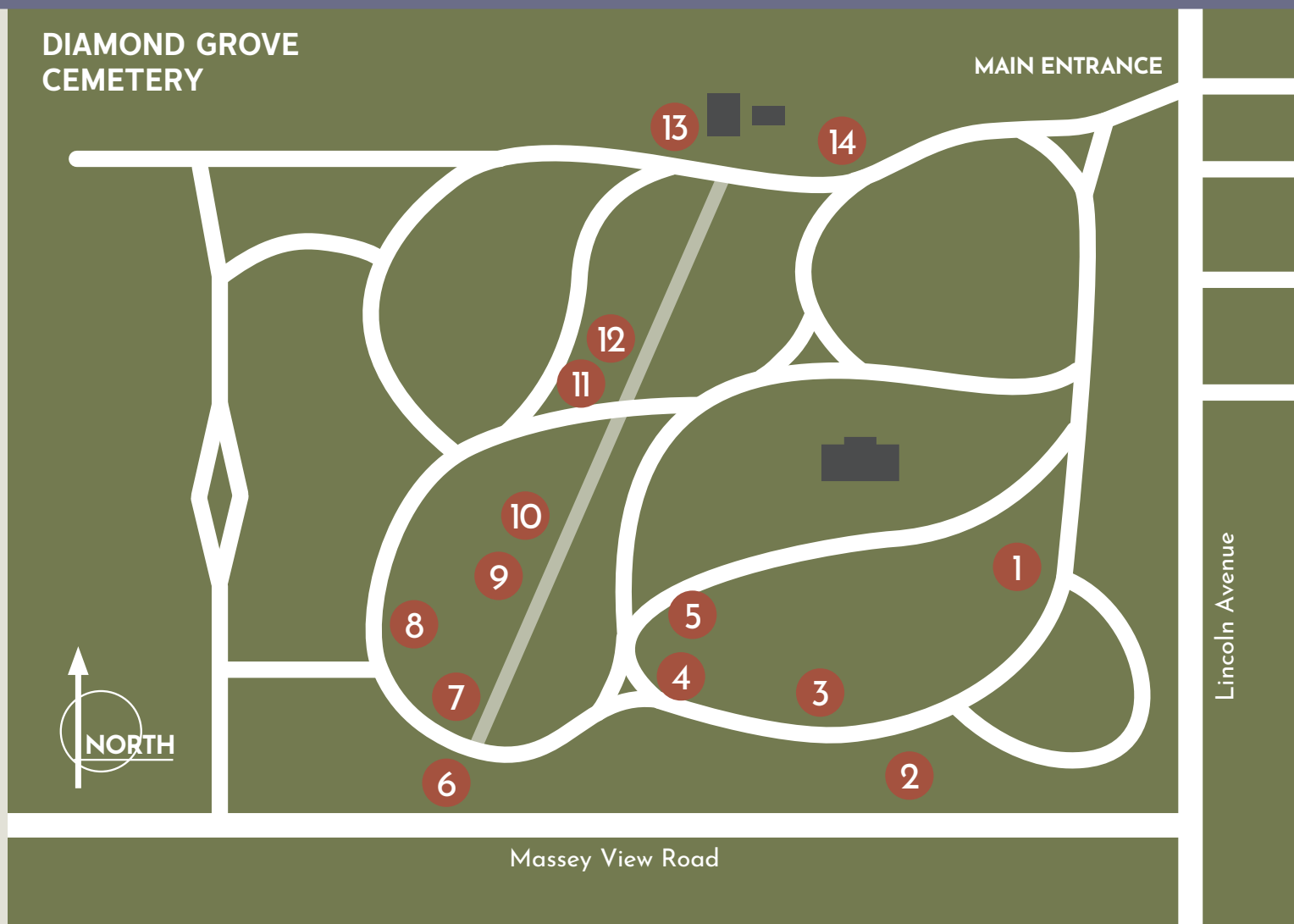
*Discover the stories  
of the brave men and women  
who guided freedom seekers  
on their journey  
to emancipation.*

## DIAMOND GROVE CEMETERY

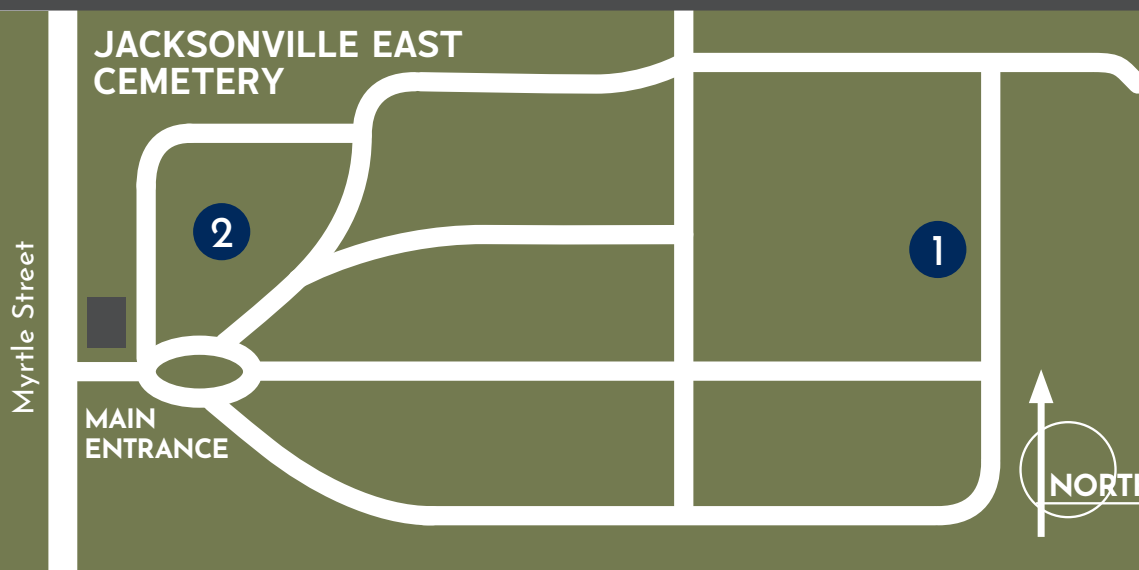
1601 Lincoln Ave, Jacksonville, IL

- 1 Michael & Frances Huffaker, Farmer, 1800-1883
- 2 David & Marcella Spencer, Solder & Teamster, 1882-1914
- 3 George & Eleanor Chambers, Retired, 1800-1891
- 4 Dr. Marco M. & Elizabeth Reed, Doctor, 1801-1877
- 5 John & Jemima Laurie, Farmer, 1787-1863
- 6 Henry & Mary Irving, Carpenter, 1816-1888
- 7 William C. & Lyndia Verry, Farmer, 1795-1877
- 8 Jonathan B. & Rhodolphia Turner, Professor, 1805-1899
- 9 Rev. William & Hanna Kirby, Minister, 1805-1899
- 10 Thomas & Clara Melendy, Mechanic, 1798-1881
- 11 Elihu & Juliana Wolcott, Merchant, 1784-1858
- 12 Ebenezer, Elize & William Carter, Farmers, 1797-1860
- 13 Dr. David & Sarah Prince, Doctor, 1816-1889
- 14 Joseph O. & Sarah King, Merchant, 1814-1887

## DIAMOND GROVE CEMETERY



## JACKSONVILLE EAST CEMETERY



## JACKSONVILLE EAST CEMETERY

600 Myrtle St, Jacksonville, IL

- 1 Benjamin & Julian Henderson, Teamster, 1811-1890
- 2 George W. & Orpha Price, Farmer, 1820-1896

