

UNDERGROUND

RAILROAD

Self-Guided Tour



Marietta – “The Northwest Ordinance, 1787/The Ohio Company Purchase” Marker – This marker celebrates the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 that created new territories north of the Ohio River. The document included many of the precursors of our Constitution’s Bill of Rights, but went further by prohibiting slavery, promoting public education, and pledged good faith in dealing with Native Americans. [GPS 39.421866, -81.461400]



Marietta – “Muskingum River Underground Railroad/Marietta Leaders of The Underground Railroad” Marker – With Marietta being located across from the slaveholding state of Virginia, the local Underground Railroad leaders used the Muskingum River to aid freedom seekers hoping to reach Canada. The marker also discusses the first documented African American born in the Northwest Territory and information about other Marietta leaders. [GPS 39.420267, -81.462850]



Marietta – “Charlotte Scott” Marker – Learn the story of formerly enslaved woman, Charlotte Scott, who came as a free woman with the Dr. William Rucker family to Marietta during the Civil War. Upon hearing of President Lincoln’s assassination, she donated \$5 to a local minister that led to the creation of the first memorial to President Abraham Lincoln. [GPS 39.416674, -81.452919]



Marietta – “The Fight for Freedom/Marietta College Activism” Marker – Located on the site of the Eells House, the marker details the Eells & Harrison families Underground Railroad connections. It also discusses Marietta College’s activities with the local Anti-Slavery Society and its first African American graduate, Charles Sumner Harrison. [GPS 39.418116, -81.450131]



Marietta – Civil War Memorial – Honoring the soldiers, sailors, and marines who fought and died in the Civil War from Washington County. Over 50% of all men between the ages of 15 – 49 in this county joined the Union cause. [GPS 39.414667, -81.456500]



Harmar – David Putnam, Jr.’s Boyhood Home (house existing, private residence, but has a historical marker) – David Putnam was an outspoken and active fighter in the Underground Railroad movement. His conductor activities are well documented with “train” schedules and more. [GPS 39.412650, -81.458883]



Harmar – David Putnam, Jr. House (house no longer exists, but a historical marker about his activities is located nearby) – This marker is located at The Anchorage, home of David’s brother. It details the important Fugitive Slave Law court case that involved both the 1793 and 1850 laws. Putnam was unsuccessfully sued under the 1793 law by his Virginia neighbor, Archibald Henderson. [GPS 39.413731, -81.463590]



Harmar – Harmar Cemetery – The oldest cemetery in Marietta, it is the burial site of abolitionist David Putnam, Jr. and several pre-Civil War multiracial families who called Harmar their home, including the Muncey, Milligan, Harrison, and other families. [GPS 39.416887, -81.464316]



Constitution – Constitution Marker near Ephraim Cutler House (Cutler’s house no longer exists, but was located near the modern-day Quonset hut next to gravel pile across Rt. 7 from this marker) This historical marker discussed the activity of Judge Cutler and his founding of the town. [39.348157, -81.555607]



Belpre – Farmer’s Castle Museum & Education Center – The museum contains early pioneer history and items on display. It houses the large wall maps and original materials collected by the late Henry Burke as part of its Underground Railroad Research Center. Check schedule for hours of operation and tours. “Underground Railroad Crossings/Near Border War” Marker. Located in front of the Farmer’s Castle Museum, this marker relates details of Underground Railroad activity and Conductors active in and around Belpre. This sign also provides details of an 1845 event involving six freedom seekers and three Conductors who were arrested nearby and taken immediately to jail in Parkersburg, Virginia. The incident, the court case, and the political tensions that followed nearly led to an actual border war between Ohio and Virginia troops. [GPS 39.271533, -81.574500]

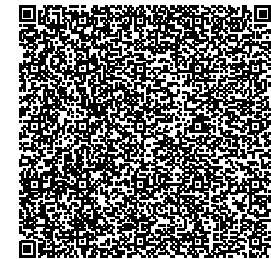


Veto – “Ephraim Cutler” Marker – The marker details the life of Judge Ephraim Cutler and his role at the Ohio Constitution Convention in 1802 and his fight to “veto” the slavery issue in the Ohio Constitution, making it permanently a free state. [GPS 39.342100, -81.671733]



Cutler – “Cutler Ohio” Marker - This marker details the history of this multiracial community that predates the Civil War. It also discusses the nearby Smith Station that gave aid and comfort to more than 150 Freedom Seekers. [GPS 39.352665, -81.791295]

Scan QR codes to find each individual marker or scan the QR code below for driving direction to all Underground markers in Washington County, Ohio.



marietta
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