

**The McClew Interpretive Center
at
Murphy Orchards**

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**Pre/Post Visit
Educational Packet**

Compiled and aligned with NYS Curriculum Standards by
Members of the McClew Interpretive Center, Inc. Advisory Committee

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McClew Interpretive Center Pre-Visit Packet Contents

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A. IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO MAKE YOUR VISIT MORE ENJOYABLE

1. Our tours are organized and structured.
 - A tour guide will be with you and your class throughout the tour.
 - We break into class-sized groups (approximately 25 per group); We try to keep you and your class together.
 - Our tours encompass several different learning stations. Each group will spend approximately 20 minutes at each station, and will then rotate to the next station. As soon as you arrive, someone will meet you and tell you where your group should assemble.
2. Two teachers or adults are admitted free of charge for each class (or group of 25). We welcome parents and other adults, but request that they pay the regular student fee for the guided tour.
3. We have a covered picnic area where you and your group may enjoy lunch. Most schools prefer that students bring a bagged lunch, but we can arrange to provide lunch for you if you wish. Contact us for details.
4. We have real, running water restrooms.
5. Our Country Barn Store gift shop features fresh produce, jams and jellies that are made right here on the farm, gift items, and snacks. We'd be happy to have your students visit the gift shop if you wish. Prices range from about \$1.00 to \$10.00.
6. Our tours are conducted out-of-doors. *Please make sure that your students dress appropriately.* We have very sandy soil, so mud is rarely a problem, but if it has rained, the grass may be wet, and there may be puddles. In chilly weather, the students should have gloves, a warm hat, and a jacket suitable for spending several hours out of doors.
7. Let us know ahead of time if any of your students have special needs that we should be aware of. We will try our best to accommodate everyone.

B. MURPHY ORCHARDS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Murphy Orchards is an operating, commercial fruit farm. We grow many different kinds of plants that produce fruit. We sell the fruit that we produce to supermarkets and to people who come to our farm to pick their own fresh, ripe fruit right off of the plants. The farm has been a producing, commercial fruit farm for over 150 years.



Charles H. McClew

The farm was established by Charles McClew in 1850. Charles McClew moved to this location from his father's home right down the street. As soon as Charles and his new wife, Anna Maria, moved to this location, they built the big brick farmhouse that we still live in, the ice house which is now our women's rest room, the smokehouse which serves as our men's rest room, and the barn that houses our Country Gift Store and our Educational exhibits.

The McClews had a big farm to operate, and they had to do all of the necessary work without the help of the tractors and mechanized farm equipment that we have available today. Even so, they found time not only to learn about social issues, but also to become actively involved in social issues that affected both their local community and the United States as a nation.



The McClew family became involved in the secret network of individuals, known as the Underground Railroad. These individuals worked together to help smuggle people who were trying to escape from slavery in the United States into the protective safe haven of Canada.

The house, barn and orchards themselves remain very much as they were when built 160 years ago, offering an authentic setting for sharing the history of the Underground Railroad. Additionally, as a working farm, we are able to demonstrate a real, hands-on illustration of how farming in the new American Colonies eventually led to the horrifying chattel slavery that existed for generations.

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C. MURPHY ORCHARDS - THE McCLEW FARM - OUR PACE IN WESTERN NEW YORK HISTORY



McCLEW FARM AN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SAFE HOUSE

FREEDOM TIMELINE

- 1865 Slavery abolished by the 13th Amendment.
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation decrees that all slaves in Rebel territory are free.
- 1861-65 United States Civil War
- 1860 Abraham Lincoln Elected.
- 1850 Compromise of 1850, which encompasses the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, passes U.S. Congress, allowing bounty hunters and Federal Marshals to seize fugitive slaves within states where slavery has been legally abolished. Freed men and women were in danger of being recaptured.
- 1837 Slavery is abolished by a Law of Complete Emancipation in New York State.
- 1820 Missouri Compromise forbids slavery in any new territories north of latitude 36°30'
- 1808 U.S. bans slave trade.
- 1793 Fugitive Slave Act outlaws efforts to impede the capture of runaways.

BOAT and BRIDGE CROSSINGS



Rowboats were used to secretly ferry people across the Niagara River to Canada and freedom.

After the first Suspension bridge was built to Canada near the Whirlpool Rapids in 1847, most fugitives escaped either by stealthily walking across the bridge or, after the original bridge was replaced by the Suspension Railway Bridge in 1855, by hiding in baggage or cattle cars of the trains.

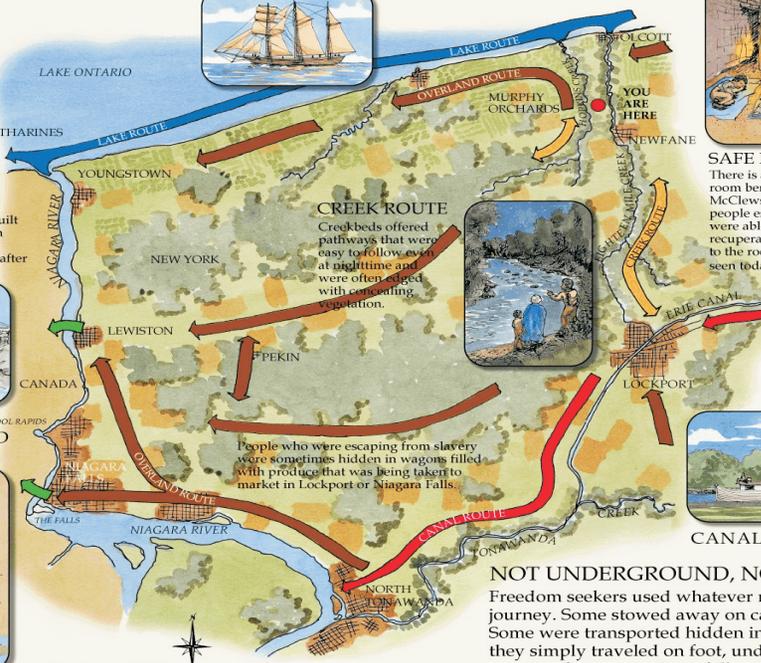


UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN NEW YORK



People who were escaping from slavery followed several routes from the south to the north, and from the interior of the state to its border with Canada.

LAKE ROUTE



CREEK ROUTE

Creekbeds offered pathways that were easy to follow even at nighttime and were often edged with concealing vegetation.



People who were escaping from slavery were sometimes hidden in wagons filled with produce that was being taken to market in Lockport or Niagara Falls.

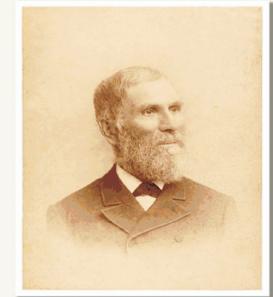


SAFE HOUSE

There is a concealed room beneath the McClews' barn where people escaping slavery were able to rest and recuperate. The entrance to the room can still be seen today.

THE ABOLITIONISTS

Charles and Anna Maria McClew were part of a secret network of people who helped freedom seekers make their way through the Niagara frontier to Canada. Abolitionists throughout the Niagara region not only assisted people fleeing from slavery but also fought for abolition of slavery through political channels.



CHARLES McCLEW

The McClews moved to this property in 1850 and built this house and barns. They used native wood, made the bricks on site, and used stones cut from the Erie Canal excavation to cap the foundation wall.

NOT UNDERGROUND, NOT A RAILROAD

Freedom seekers used whatever means available to make their journey. Some stowed away on canal boats and lake steamers. Some were transported hidden in wagons. Usually, however, they simply traveled on foot, under the cover of darkness, carrying few possessions, following creek beds to avoid detection, and following leads to safe houses like the McClews' to rest and eat.



Cultural Heritage

Routes to freedom passed through many Seaway Trail communities.

Seaway Trail, Inc.
Corner Ray & West Main St.
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685
www.seawaytrail.com

This exhibit made possible by a grant from FHWA to Seaway Trail, Inc.

D. THE CONCEALED ROOM BENEATH OUR BARN

The Underground Railroad is not a history of architecture, nor a history of secret hiding places. It is a history of people. The Underground Railroad is a history of ordinary people who chose to do heroic things.

Nevertheless, there is a concealed room beneath our barn, which is believed to have been used as a safe hiding place for people escaping from slavery who came to the McClew farm. The room itself is 8 feet by 10 feet, and is carefully built from stone and mortar. The floor of the room is 13 feet beneath the floor of the barn. It has an 8-foot high arched ceiling made from bricks. It is a very safe hiding place.

Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to allow anyone to go into the room itself. It would be far too dangerous for our visitors to climb down into the well-like opening that leads to the room. Also, allowing the public into the room would eventually damage the historic significance of the room itself, and destroy artifacts which might remain within the room or buried in the dirt floor.



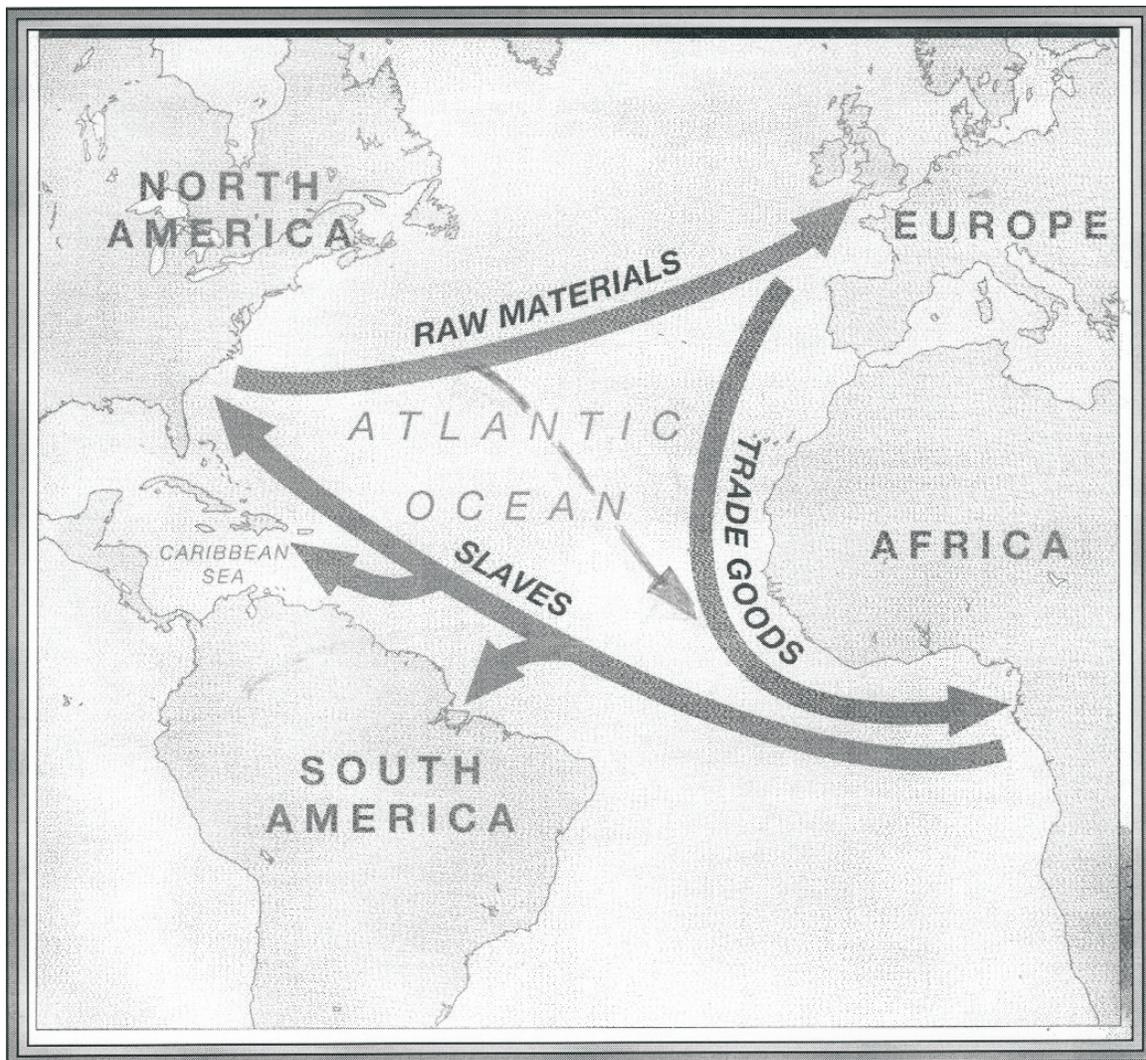
Entrance to Concealed Room in Barn

The trap-door entrance to the room, however, can be viewed from within the barn, and is an important part of our tours.

When the trapdoor is closed, the room is completely dark and air tight. The McClews installed five small pipes through the ceiling of the room to the outside air. This allowed for air circulation and some ventilation. The McClew family made every effort to

make the room as safe and comfortable as possible for the people who they were trying to help escape from slavery.

E. THE TRIANGLE TRADE



The Triangle Trade got its name from the shape of the trade routes established in the Colonial period. This is illustrated in the map above. People from Africa first arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619 as Indentured Servants. By 1670, most were imprisoned in Africa and brought to the Americas as prisoners, where they were sold as slaves.

The first leg of the trade route went from North America to England. Ships were filled with raw materials such as lumber and furs, or cash crops such as rice, indigo, tobacco, and sugar. Ships then picked up manufactured goods such as iron tools, guns, or rum, which were then traded for captives in Africa. As manufacturing increased in North America, sometimes ships traveled straight to Africa without first going to England.

The next leg of the route, called the "Middle Passage," was from the West Coast of Africa to South America and the West Indies. The "Slave Ships" were usually horribly overcrowded, with the prisoners chained so tightly together below the decks, that there was hardly room for them to sit or stand. Many died from disease. Others attempted to starve themselves to death, or to jump overboard if they were permitted to come up on deck. The captives were delivered to ports in South America, the West Indies and the Southern Colonies, where they were purchased and auctioned off as slaves to the highest bidder. Families were broken up, never to be reunited. Most of the people sold as slaves ended up working on large farms, called plantations, that raised crops such as sugar cane, rice, tobacco and indigo. Cotton would be added as the "King," or most important crop, after the invention of Eli Whitney's cotton gin, which separated the seeds from the tufts of cotton 50 times faster than it could be done by hand.

The final leg of the journey was from the West Indies or Southern Colonies to the Northern Colonies, where sugar cane grown in the South was used to make molasses, which was then made into rum. Then the cycle would be repeated.

The importation of captive people to be sold as slaves lasted until it was outlawed by the American Congress in 1808, but this did not stop slavery in the United States. Slavery within portions of the United States was still legal, captives were still smuggled into the country illegally, those people who were enslaved in 1808 remained enslaved, and any children that were born to an enslaved mother were also enslaved from the day they were born.

When the practice of slavery first began in the American Colonies, slavery was legal in all of the colonies and territories, but it was gradually abolished in many of the Northern States and territories. This was primarily a result of agriculture. The crops that were in such great demand in Europe - rice, tobacco, cotton and indigo - require long summers, short winters, and a generally mild climate, to be grown successfully. These crops flourished in the South, but could not be grown well in the Northern States. The North gradually became industrialized, with factories springing up in all of the major cities. It simply doesn't take as much hand labor to operate most factories as it does to operate a huge farm. Immigrants and indentured servants arriving from Europe supplied a sufficient work force for the industrialized Northern States.

F. SEASONAL AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Farm life is labor intensive from sun up until sun down. Farmers and farm workers work hard. Many people today think slavery was wrong because people had to work so hard. Slavery was wrong not because people had to work hard, but because they were owned and oppressed by another person, and they had no freedom of choice. Farming actually gives most farmers and farm workers a unique sense of satisfaction and pride in doing a useful and productive job.

Some farm work must be done in all seasons. These daily routines include taking care of the animals: feeding, watering, bedding, and cleaning animal stalls. Gathering eggs and milking cows are tasks usually done twice a day, every day, all year long. But most farm work is regulated by the year's calendar and by the weather. Farmers live by the seasons.

- **Spring.** The ground awakens. Fields must be plowed, turning the earth over into rows. The plowed fields must then be harrowed to break up the lumps of soil, leveling and smoothing the field. Next, the finely worked soil is planted, either with baby plants or with seeds. Spring is also the time to fix pasture fences, shear the wool off of the sheep, and add nutrients to the soil.
- **Summer.** Getting rid of weeds is a big job for fruit and vegetable farmers. Crops will not grow well unless the weeds are removed. Summer is also "hay making weather." Hay is just grass that is cut, left in the sun to dry, and gathered and stored in the mow (hayloft) of the barn. The hay will be used to feed the livestock throughout the winter. As the fruits and vegetables ripen, they must be harvested and sold or preserved.
- **Fall.** Harvesting the year's bounty continues in the fall. The best apples are picked and stored in a cool place, sometimes for many months. Some apples are used or sold for pies or for jams and jellies, and some are pressed into cider or made into vinegar. Crops such as wheat and hay are planted in the fall for next year's harvest. Livestock is taken to market and sold, or butchered and preserved. Weeds are removed from fields one last time, the orchard grass is mowed, and the equipment is cleaned up and put away.
- **Winter.** Equipment is repaired, orchards are pruned, and plans for the following year are made. The farmer calculates how many seeds and plants will be ordered for the next season. Old orchard trees that are no longer producing well may be cut down and hauled to the back of the farm or split and stacked for firewood. Late in the winter, maple trees can be tapped to gather maple sap, which can be boiled down to make maple syrup and maple sugar.

These are some of the jobs that had to be done on farms back in 1650, and they are jobs that still have to be done on farms today. The jobs haven't changed, but the way we do the jobs has changed. Today we use machinery, power tools and chemicals to do many jobs that had to be done all by hand 200 years ago.

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G. HISTORICAL TIME LINE

- 1788 U.S. Constitution is adopted, but does not end slavery.
- 1793 The first Fugitive Slave Law (Act) is established in the United States.
- 1808 Importation of people to be sold as slaves in the United States becomes illegal.
- 1830s The term "Underground Railroad" is first used.
- 1850 Compromise of 1850 admits California as a free State and establishes a harsher Fugitive Slave Law (Act).

Charles and Anna Maria McClew begin farming, build their house and barn, and become involved in the Underground Railroad network.
- 1852 *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe is published.
- 1857 Dred Scott decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declares people of African descent are not citizens.
- 1861 Civil War begins.

Southern States secede from the United States and form the Confederate States of America.
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation frees enslaved people in the rebel states.
- 1865 The Union wins the Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated.
13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishes slavery.
- 1868 14th Amendment to the Constitution grants U.S. citizenship to people of African descent.
- 1870 15th Amendment to the Constitution grants men of African descent the right to vote.

<p>“Friend with Friends” or “Friend of a Friend”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Passwords to indicate that someone was sent by a person involved in the Underground Railroad</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Bounty Hunter”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Person who follows fugitives who have escaped from slavery, and tries to capture them for a reward</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“River bank makes a mighty good road”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Rivers and Creeks are easy to follow in a strange land, and Tracking dogs can’t follow a person’s scent through water</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Dead trees will show you the way”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Moss grows on the <u>north</u> side of dead trees</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Wind blows from the South today”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Words to tell people involved in the Underground Railroad that people escaping from slavery were in the area and in need of help</p> <p>Meaning</p>

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2	2
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5	5

<p>“Stockholder”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Someone who gives money, clothing or food to help the Underground Railroad effort.</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Bundles of wood, parcels or baggage”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>People escaping from slavery who are being helped to move from place to place along the Underground Railroad</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Drinking gourd”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>The star constellation (the Big Dipper) which points to the North Star</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Station Master”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>Owner or keeper of a Safe House</p> <p>Meaning</p>
<p>“Freedom Train”</p> <p>Code Words</p>	<p>The Underground Railroad</p> <p>Meaning</p>

6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10

<p style="text-align: center;">“Moses”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Harriet Tubman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meaning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Station”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A safe place or a safe House along the Underground Railroad</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meaning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Conductor”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Someone who led or transported people escaping from slavery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meaning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Promised Land”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Canada</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meaning</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">“Are the geese ready to fly north?”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Code Words</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Is it safe for the fugitives to leave for Canada?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meaning</p>

11	11
12	12
13	13
14	14
15	15

J. VOCABULARY LIST - MIDDLE GRADES

1. Agent A person who plotted an escape route for the fugitives.
2. Baggage A person trying to escape from slavery.
3. Bounty hunters A person hired to track and return someone trying to escape from slavery.
4. Brakeman Someone who makes contact with people escaping from slavery.
5. Conductors People who transported fugitives.
6. Forwarding Taking fugitives from station to station
7. Freedom Line The travel route for people escaping slavery.
8. Jumping off place A place where fugitives were sheltered.
9. Load of potatoes Fugitives hidden under farm produce in a farm wagon.
- 10 Patter Roller Another name for a Bounty Hunter - A person hired to track and return people escaping from slavery.
11. Pilot Someone who guided the fugitives.
12. Shepherds People who encouraged others to escape from slavery.
13. Station A safe place or safe house to shelter people escaping from slavery.
14. Station master The owner or person in charge of a safe house.
15. Triangular trade The movement of people, raw materials, and other goods between North America, Europe and Africa

**H. WORD SEARCH:
THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND THE MCCLEW FAMILY**



ABOLITIONISTS
ANNA MARIA MCCLEW
BARN
CHARLES MCCLEW
CONCEALED ROOM
FARM
FUGITIVES
LAKE ONTARIO
NEWFANE
SAFE HOUSE

AGRICULTURE
APPLES
CANADA
CHERRIES
ERIE CANAL
FREEDOM
HOPKINS CREEK
MURPHY ORCHARDS
NIAGARA COUNTY
UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

I. VOCABULARY GAME - INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Directions for the Vocabulary Game (Intermediate Level):

Words on the left column are "code words" and the meanings are in the right column.

Cut the squares apart and mix up.

Children try to choose a "code word" and a meaning that match.

Self check by turning the cards over to see whether the numbers match.

